EXTRA
20 BONUS PAPERS
+ 37 DIGI STAMPS
Love your
69
Piece Kit
Best for Value, Inspiration & Projects
Crafts
beautiful
May 2021
Over 100 New Makes Every Issue!
CRAFT AND UPCYCLE WITH
Stacey Solomon!
WOW! 18 CRAFTS WITH YOUR KIT
Just because...
let's celebrate
243 Easy-Make Ideas
+ BONUS Stamping Crash Course!
LEARN WITH US: Die-Cutting * Decoupage * Origami
Boost Your Skills
AMAZING PROJECTS MADE EASY
FREE Template Inside!
UK £5.99 | ISSUE 358
MAY 2021
Pardon the Weeds we're feeding the BEES
You Can Make This!
Learn To Crochet! Master Simple Stitches
you're lovely
Ready, Steady, Sew!
APPLIQUÉ FOR BEGINNERS
aceville
Plus More! "How Crafting Helped Me In Lockdown" + Eco-Friendly Projects


Forever
CRAFT Buddy
FLOWERZ
Wide range of DIY flowers, foliage
and accessories to choose from...
...all kits and accessories
work together
....everything you need
is included in every kit!
To view our full range, please visit:
www.craftbuddyshop.com
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Hello crafters,

"Crafting is something I do for me," explained Stacey Solomon when we sat down for a chat with her (p26), and we couldn't agree more. We all love to make for others, but the feeling we get when we let our creativity flow is just as much a treat for us as it is for our recipients.

Something that I find to be the most relaxing of all crafts is stamping, so you can only imagine my glee to be bringing you a **stamping special** this month. For those of you newbies (we see you!) **we go right back to basics** on page 42. Once you've got to grips with it and become a stamping addict like the rest of us, then be sure to take a look at our **selection of incredible projects**. You can **carve your own stamps** (p54), try your hand at the rotation technique (p46) and even **put your old books to good use** (p64).

But of course it doesn't end there. I'd love to know, what do you think of this month's **Create and Craft card making kit**? We've completely fallen head over heels for the stunning projects that you can make with it – check out our collection of 18 ideas starting on page eight.

And don't worry stitchers, we certainly haven't forgotten about you. We know **you'll love making our crochet granny bag** (p78), our floral appliqué set (p76) and a rather **incredible cross-stitch** design too (p81). Don't forget to **share what you make** on social media and you could feature in these very pages!

From all of us here at CB, we hope your month is filled with plenty of crafting fun. See you next time!

Jessica

Jessica Elkin, Editor

MEET THE CB SQUAD



STACEY SOLOMON, TV PERSONALITY

Try my easy-to-follow craft and upcycling projects – head to page 26!



MARION EMBERSON, WOW! EMBOSSING POWDER

Find my stamping tips on page 44



CAROLYN DUNSTER, BOTANICAL STYLIST

I talk you through my new book, *Cut & Dry* on page 98



MELISSA HYLAND, DEPUTY EDITOR

I'm so inspired by our pressed flowers project, check it out over on page 61

Subscribe today! Head to page 30 for a special offer price

We'd love to hear from you... facebook.com/craftsbeautiful @craftsbeautiful @craftsbeautiful
pinterest.com/craftsbeautiful **Or write to us:** Crafts Beautiful, 1 Phoenix Court, Hawkins Road, Colchester Essex, CO2 8JY

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Crafts beautiful









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BE INSPIRED

COLOUR CREATIVE

LEARN SOMETHING NEW

GET MAKING





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STITCH IT

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Pardon the Weeds we're feeding the BEES



YOUR FREEBIES

Love & Best Wishes ALL-IN-ONE Cardmaking Pack
Tattered Lace
LARGE BUTTERFLY SET OF 3 DIES



PROJECT FINDER

Find every project featured in this issue more easily with our helpful index

YOUR FREEBIES





COLOUR CREATIVE









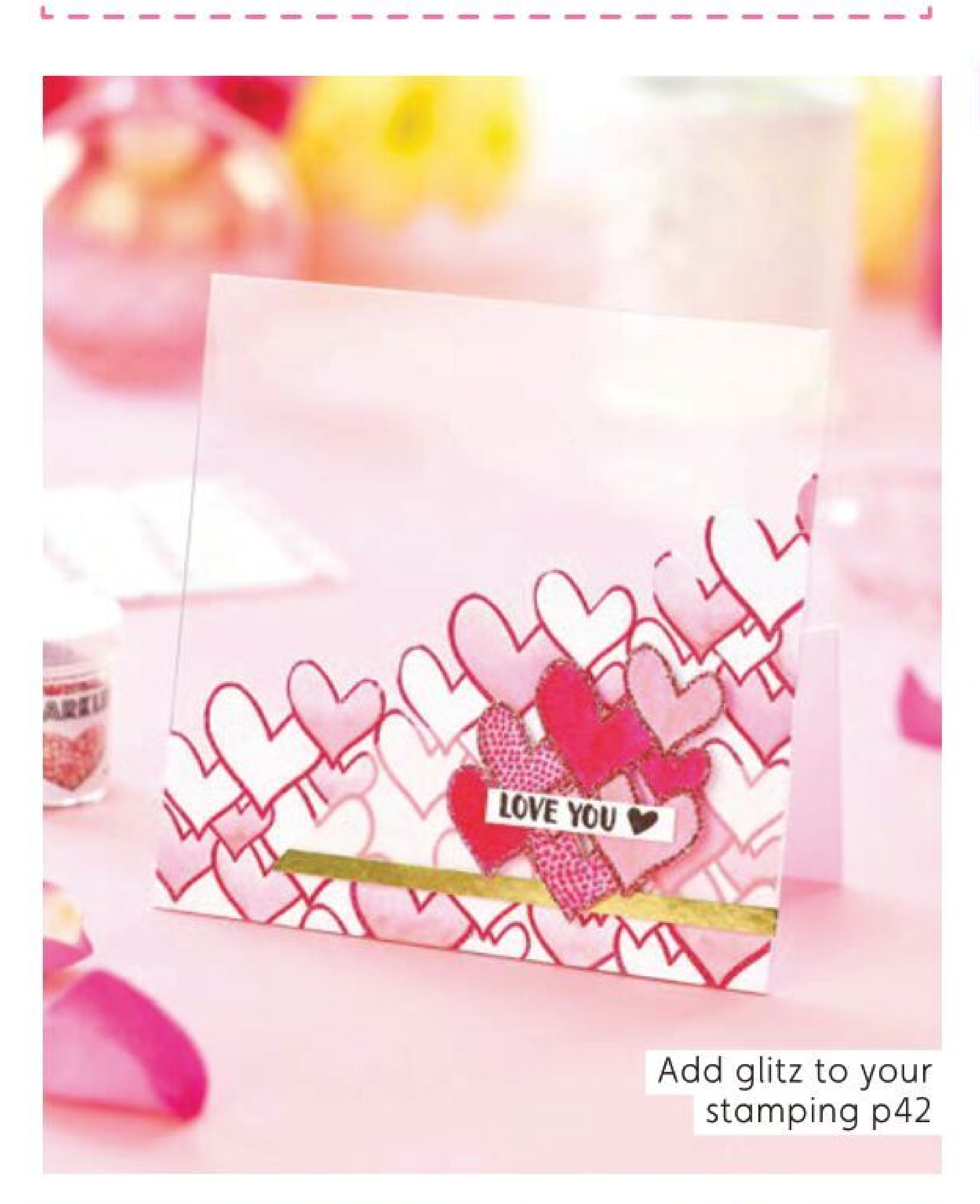


LEARN SOMETHING NEW









GET MAKING





STAMPING SPECIAL







STITCH IT











CREATE STUNNING DESIGNS WITH YOUR 

Card Making Pack!

You can't go wrong with florals! A little touch of flower power is perfect for every occasion, which is why we know you'll love your new Stephanie Weightman kit. Packed with toppers, card blanks, stunning papers and even an impressive rubber stamp – we're certain that the creative possibilities will keep you busy all through spring. So what are you waiting for, rip open your kit and let's get started.

14 CARDS TO TRY!





Make even more projects with your kit on page 13!







COLETTE SMITH



"Cut into various elements of the kit, such as the envelopes and printed blanks to make your kit go even further. These can then be added to blanks from your stash"

CB DESIGNER





ONLINE INSPIRATION

For more papercrafting projects, check out our free video tutorials at **youtube.com/TheCraftsChannel**





Use multiple toppers to create easy layered greetings

BONUS PAPERS AND STAMPS!

Get 20 papers and 37 digi stamps to go with your kit at **crafts-beautiful.com**!

TURN OVER FOR EVEN MORE!

GET YOUR DISCOUNT!

Get 20% off everything* at **crafting.co.uk** using code **ACE20CFT** in the basket

Treat yourself to a die-cutting machine!

*Excludes New Arrivals, offer expires 30th May 2021.

Adding twine or gems can really make your cards pop



KITTY DAY

"Cut out the frames from the envelopes and use them as toppers on your cards"

CB DESIGNER

BONUS PROJECT!
We'll show you how to master ink blending!

NEXT MONTH IN CB...

You'll love your Stephanie Weightman It's a Gift Card Making pack!

INCLUDES:

★ 62 pretty pre-cut shapes
★ Ready-made card blanks
★ Eight double-sided patterned papers
★ Pop-up card templates
★ Turn to page 95 to find out more!

WORTH £19.99

FIND ALL THE INSTRUCTIONS AT **CRAFTS-BEAUTIFUL.COM**

YOUR FREE GIFT:

CRAFT-ALONG

Make use of your magazine gift and learn new skills along the way

Now that you've seen all of the stunning elements in your Create and Craft kit, it's time to take it one step further. In true CB spirit (we really like to make the most out of our incredible kits!) we're bringing you another four makes – and it gets better, each one teaches you a new papercraft technique: win, win!











We used... * Your Love & Best Wishes Card Making pack * Lawn Fawn Pillow Box die * Card: white, gold mirri * Corner rounder punch * Alcohol markers * Black ink * Brown paper bag * Embellishments: ribbon, lace, gems, pearls



"The stamp included in your kit is the perfect size for creating your own background designs"

KITTY DAY, CB DESIGNER

Stamp & Decoupage

1 Trim patterned paper into a rectangle and round the top corners with a punch. Place on gold mirri card and punch a hole in the top. Layer strips of patterned paper and glue in the centre. Attach a die-cut border across the bottom and place a sentiment on top.

2 Stamp flowers three times and colour with alcohol markers. Cut out and layer with foam pads to create a decoupage topper. Stick in place and add pearls to the corners. Tie lace through the hole at the top.

Layer & Embellish

1 Trim patterned paper to fit the size of a small brown paper bag and glue it to the front panel. Glue lace and ribbon across the top and bottom of the paper. Cut out a frame from one of your kit card blanks and fix in place with foam pads.

2 Attach the die-cut sentiment to the centre of the frame. Tie a bow using the same ribbon as before and glue at the top of the bag. Add an adhesive gem to the centre of the bow and add three onto the bottom ribbon border.





ADD SOME SHINE
Use the Dovecraft Essentials A4 Gold Mirror Card to give your makes the wow-factor, £2.50, **theworks.co.uk**



CUT & SHAPE
Make your own mini box with the Lawn Fawn Pillow Box Die, £35.99, **createandcraft.com**







Master Die-Cutting

1 Die-cut a pillow box from white card and assemble it together with some tape. Attach patterned paper onto the top panel of the box. Wrap ribbon around the middle of the box and tie into a knot at the side.

2 Attach the wood-effect panel from your kit and a 'you make me happy' sentiment onto the centre of your pillow box. Glue the pop-out die-cut leaves onto the bottom left and top right corners of the box, then attach the flowers on top of the leaves with foam pads.

Stamping Backgrounds

1 Use the stamp from your kit to stamp flowers randomly onto a piece of white card to create a repeat pattern background panel. Colour each of the images with pink and green alcohol markers.

2 Layer the stamped panel onto a piece of gold mirri card and glue onto a white card base. Attach a thin strip of patterned paper across the top of the card and a die-cut sentiment in the middle of it. Add pearls to either side of the sentiment to finish the card.

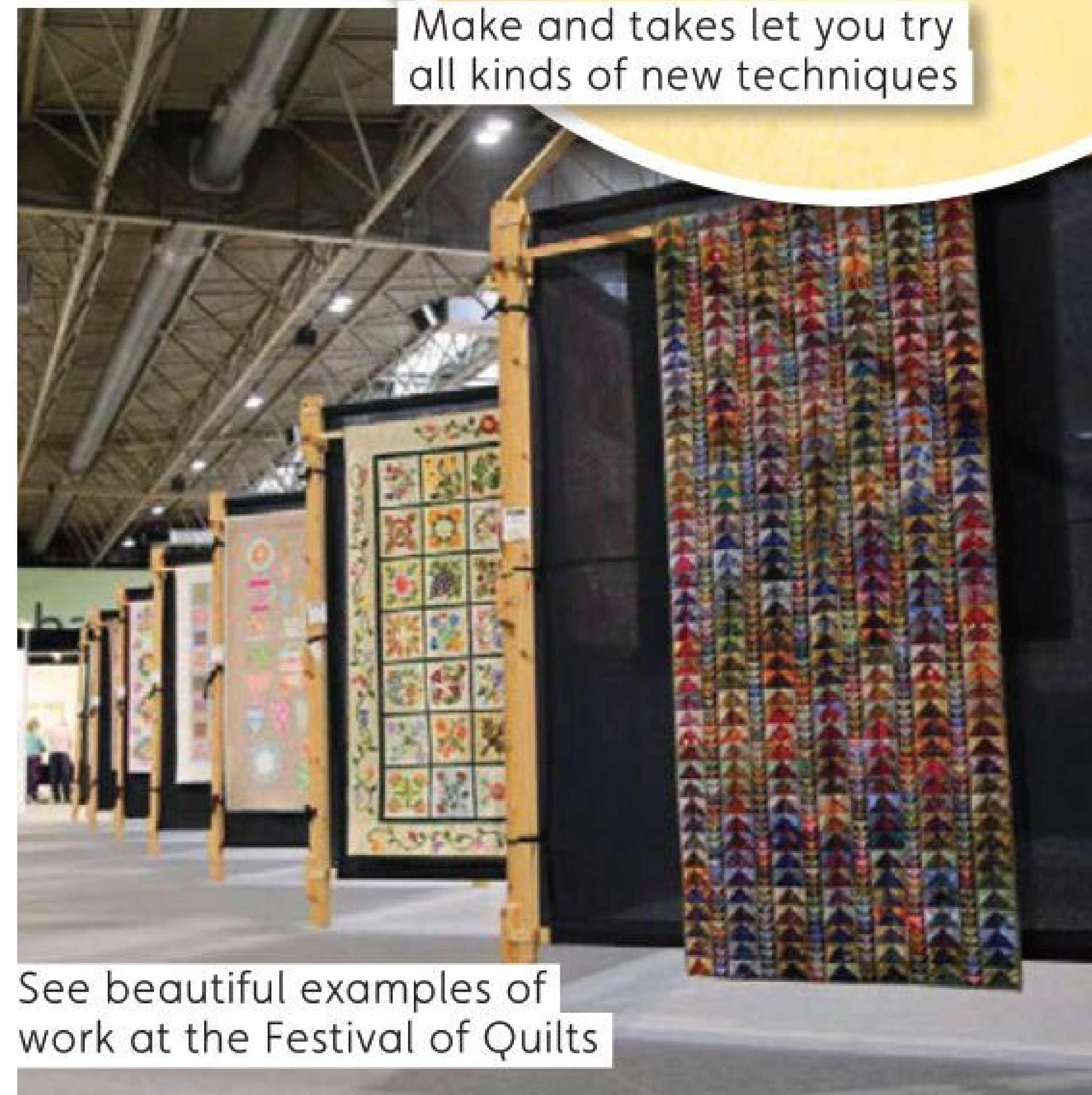


CRAFT DIARY

Stuart Hillard

Stuart can't wait to head back to the shows for inspiration-starved crafters!


The Creative Craft Show returns in June


See beautiful examples of work at the Festival of Quilts

Make and takes let you try all kinds of new techniques

I like to think of creativity as a piggy bank, which we can add to and take from as needed. Deposits are made every time we flick through our favourite crafting magazine, look at what fellow makers are doing on Pinterest or Instagram, or visit a show. When planning a new project, we can then dip into our crafty bank account and infuse whatever we are doing with that extra dose of inspiration.

A single event can provide a huge number of ideas but it does need a top up now and then. After a year without, my inspiration bank is pretty depleted so I'm really excited that creative shows are ready to launch again, starting in summer! I can't wait to do all the things I've missed so much and I'm sure you feel the same.

Shows inspire me because they are a melting pot of everything that makes me tick. There are the exhibitions of professionals' and talented hobbyists' work, providing a wonderful insight into the creative process from another perspective. Then there are the retailers, all keen to show us the latest products and techniques. I watch as many live demos as I can, since most craft tools and materials only really come to life when someone is using them.

"Shows inspire me because they are a melting pot of everything that makes me tick"

Another wonderful benefit of visiting a show is the workshops and make and takes, a great way to get as much inspiration as possible in a day. But I can't forget my favourite source of ideas: the other visitors! Chatting to fellow enthusiasts, sharing our news, and seeing what we've bought, all fills our creative piggy banks in a way that can't be replicated. Lots of us are feeling a little nervous about getting back into the outside world but I'm reassured from talking to event organisers that the future looks bright, we just need to turn up!


There's plenty to inspire at The Knitting & Stitching Show

So what can we look forward to? The Creative Craft Show, Sewing for Pleasure and Cake International are all set to run from 24th-27th June at the NEC Birmingham and in addition to the physical shows there will be online demos and lectures, plus online shopping for crafters unable to make the trip. I love an event which gives me the opportunity to find inspiration from other crafts, so this is definitely in my diary!

I'm also super excited for The Festival of Quilts from 29th July-1st August, again at the NEC. Lots of good practise learned during lockdown has been integrated into this year's show with wider aisles, an extra hall, staggered arrivals and extended hours to create a more spacious and relaxed environment. Workshop space has been doubled and student numbers reduced, meaning more time with the teacher, and like last year, all of the competition quilts will be available to view online.

The Knitting & Stitching Show is also running later in the autumn, at Alexandra Palace on 7th-10th October and in Harrogate on 18th-21st November. Again, if like me you enjoy a number of different crafts these shows are an ideal opportunity to immerse yourself in everything you love. As I always say, too much of anything can be wonderful!

Stuart x

WHAT WE ARE LOVING

Get creative in May with kits, workshops, knitalongs and more!



© AIM Studio Co

We're making the most of the warm, sunny weather here at CB, taking regular breaks from our monitors to enjoy a walk outside! That said, there are plenty of online craft classes and courses to help keep us occupied, plus kits to zhuzh up our homes and learn new techniques, and a combined knitting and crochet-along to make a lovely blanket – you *could* make it by yourself, but it's even more fun with a friend. With so much to inspire, you might not make it outside after all!





Made With Love

Don't miss The Friendship Blanket project in our sister title, Let's Get Crafting! Designed by Zoë Potrac and Nicola Valiji, it will run across four issues, which will include the yarns to make knitted and crochet squares for this gorgeous, multicoloured blanket. The Friendship Blanket project begins in issue 130 of Let's Get Crafting, on sale from 1st April. **topcrochetpatterns.com**

Kitted Out

Get crafty at home with Creators Cabinet, a new company providing toolkits and workshops. Buy one of their kits such as this I Know Lino box, which contains all you need plus an online workshop code, allowing you to learn a new craft at your own pace. From £30, **creatorscabinet.co.uk**



Take a Letter

The elegant new Sara Signature collection, Letters From The Heart, has everything you need to create beautiful projects and heartfelt messages. The range includes shabby chic-style paper pads, stamps and dies, embossing folders and wax seal kits, all designed and sized to work perfectly together. **crafterscompanion.co.uk**

Class Act

West Dean College in Chichester and KLC School of Design in London are joining forces from August 2021, offering an even wider range of creative courses. Check them out at **westdean.org uk** and **klc.co.uk**

Learn At Home

Stylist magazine is launching The Curiosity Academy, a digital space packed with workshops, guides and video classes to learn new skills from the UK's most in-the-know people. Sign up for updates at **stylist.co.uk**



Egg-citing Crafting

Linda Martin Egg Designs has just designed a new beginner's kit including a cutting file, paints, materials and a DVD showing how to create one of these pretty goose egg jewel boxes. The Serendipity kit comes in a choice of black or pink for just £29.95 including p&p. To order, email **linda-martin@btconnect.com** or phone 01253 702703.

3 OF THE BEST... Personalised Gifts



Hands Off Ceramic Travel Mug, £19.99, **dobbies.com**



Half and Half Chopping Board, £10, **SLHGiftsAndCards** at **etsy.com**



Custom Family Portrait, £35, **EllaJMIllustrations** at **etsy.com**

CHECK OUT YOUR FREE COPY WITH THIS ISSUE OF CRAFTS BEAUTIFUL!

Must Read

My Weekly prides itself on being your feel-good read – every issue is packed with entertaining and informative features. There's celebrity interviews, delicious recipes, engrossing fiction, plus fantastic tips and advice on fashion, beauty, health, homes and gardens, money and much more. Don't miss My Weekly, on sale every Tuesday. **myweekly.co.uk**

We used...

* Rattan hoop * Assorted dried flowers * Florist wire * Strong scissors * Ribbon or twine

5-Minute Fixer

MAKE AN INSTA-WORTHY SPRING WREATH USING DRIED FLOWERS

1 Plan how you want the hoop to look. Use the two largest, most prominent flowers to serve as starting points for the design.

2 Push the stems through the hoop, forming them around the circle. Don't try too hard to get a perfect round shape; have some flowers rest against the hoop, while others fan out. Secure with florist wire if needed.

3 With the main hoop sections mapped out, start pushing and shaping more flowers around it. You could go for a tonal approach, or experiment with contrast and colour.

4 Trim the ends of any stems that are sticking out. Tie a ribbon or twine around the top of the hoop for hanging.

Find more inspirational projects at **furniturechoice.co.uk**





Take A Card

If you need a last-minute greeting, check out the lovely Ava Collection from I Am Roxanne. Featuring muted colour palettes, abstract motifs, and artistic brush strokes paired with uplifting and inspiring typography, these cards are also made from sustainable materials for eco brownie points! Visit **iamroxanne.co.uk**

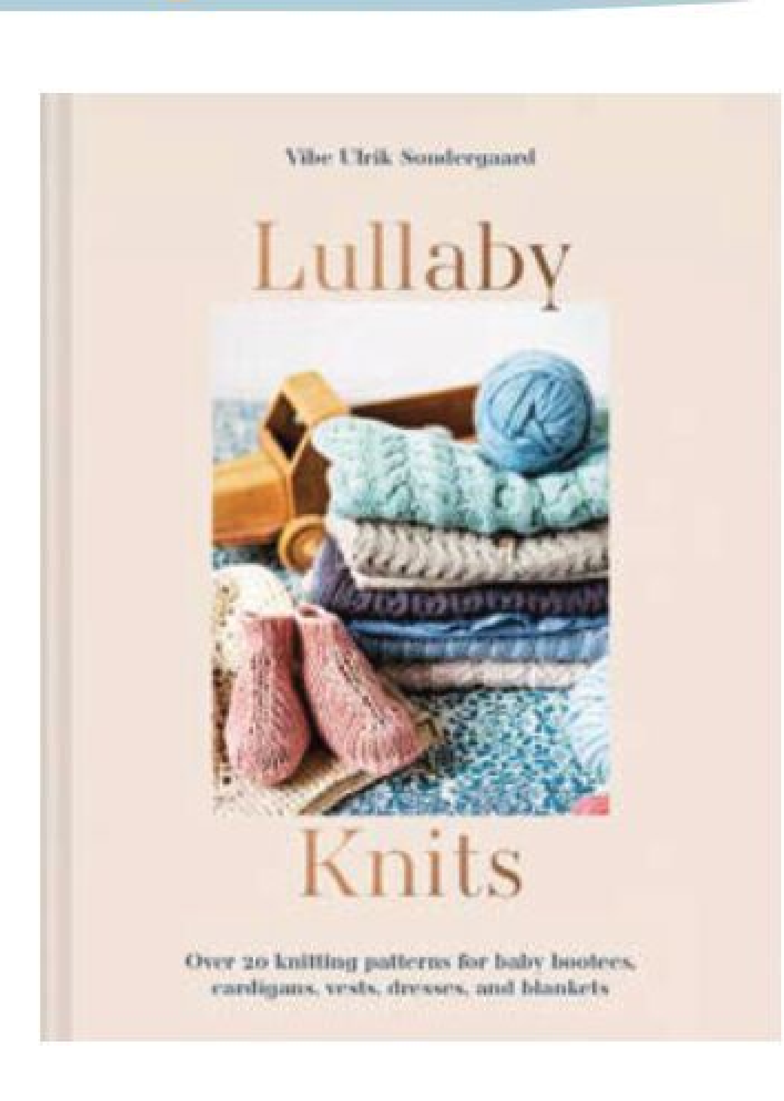


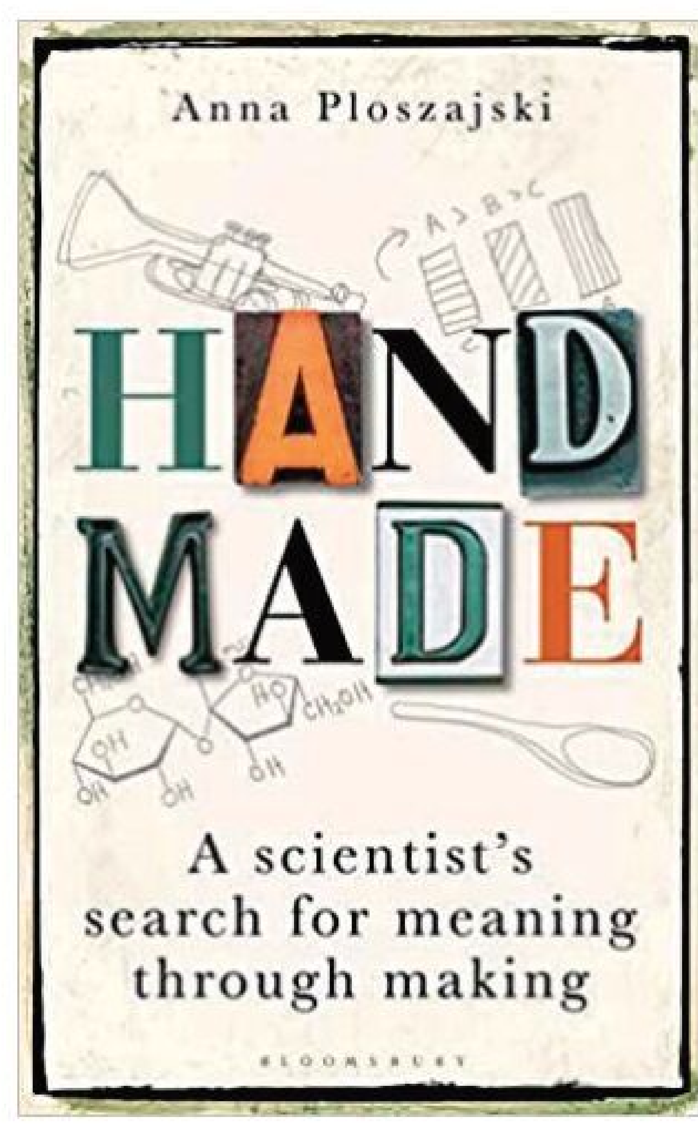
THE CB BOOK CLUB

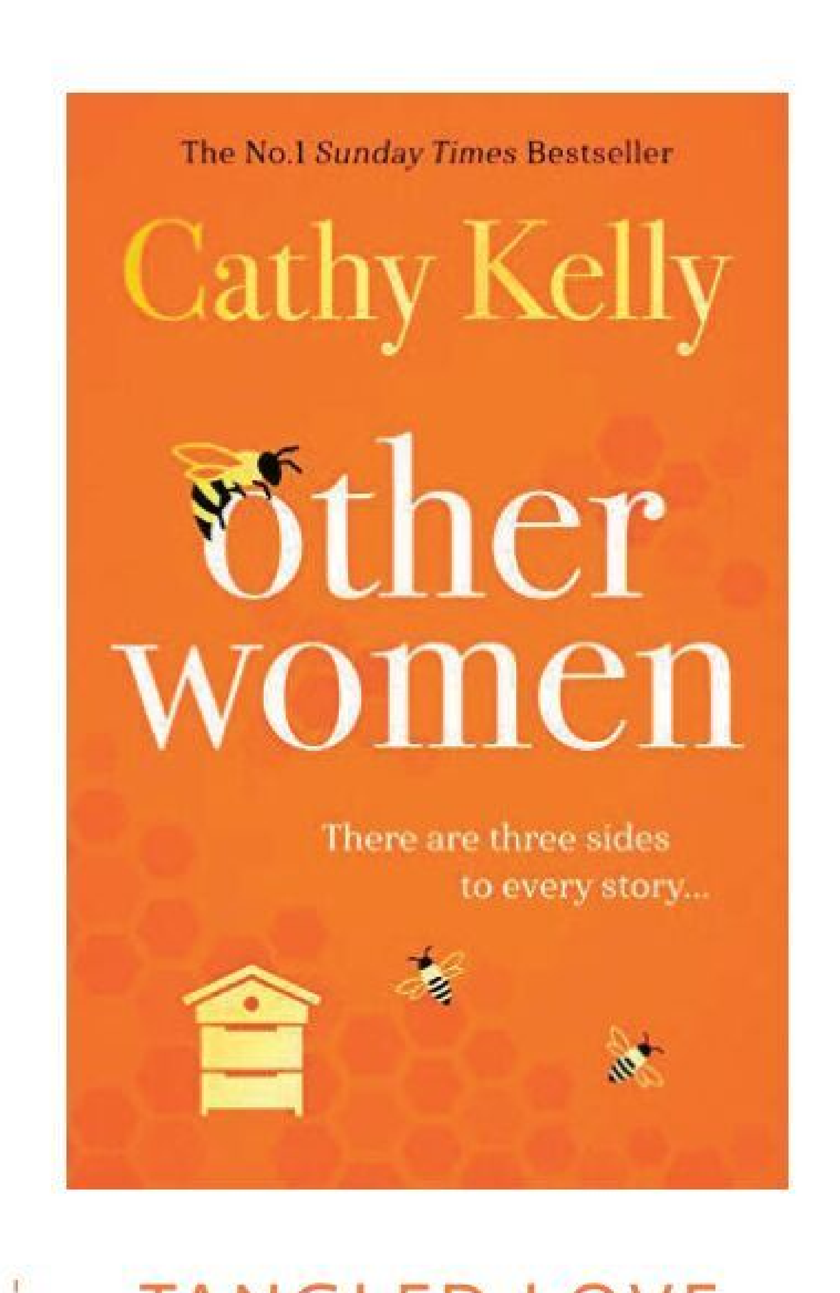
Settle down with a cuppa and our top picks that'll capture your imagination this month, from gorgeous baby knits to a gripping romance novel, these will let your mind wander and broaden your horizons.

WIN! 3 copies to giveaway on Instagram **@craftsbeautiful**









GREEN FINGERS

Featuring 20 gorgeous patterns that celebrate nature and our wonderful planet, *Cross Stitch for the Earth* by Emma Congdon also aims to help inform and encourage us to be more environmentally aware in our lives. Turn to **page 81** to make one of the designs today and start stitching for a greener future! £16.99, **davidandcharles.com**

SWEET DREAMS

Combining comfort with contemporary design, *Lullaby Knits* by Vibe Ulrik Sondergaard features over 20 knitting patterns for baby sweaters, dresses, blankets and a cosy wrap for mum or dad! With beautiful stitches and classic shapes this book will inspire any knitter to create their own gorgeous garments that will keep your baby stylish yet comfy. £14.99, **pavilionbooks.com**

MATERIAL GIRL

For a scientific twist, *Handmade* by Anna Ploszajski explores the modern world through crafts – making and doing from a materials scientist's perspective. She travels the length and breadth of the country to meet makers, artists and craftspeople to try her hand at their craft, with each chapter focusing on a different material. £16.99, **bloomsbury.com**

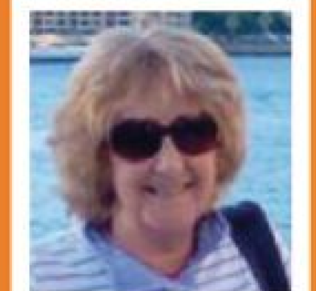
TANGLED LOVE

With themes of marriage, family and romance, *Other Women* by Cathy Kelly follows the lives of three women, each with their own secret, living a tangled life. This honest, funny story explores real-life relationships and how sometimes it's the women in our lives who hold us together. This novel has gone straight to the top of our to-read list. £10.95, **orionbooks.co.uk**

OVER TO YOU... *Here's what you've been reading this month...*



MARIANNE FISHER... "I just finished *The Night Hawks* by Elly Griffiths, the 13th book in the series about Dr Ruth Galloway. It felt like being amongst friends and I loved it as much as the others in the series!"



GAYNOR WISEMAN... "I am reading *Lady of Hay* by Barbara Erskine, which is about regression but the past and present become dramatically entwined. This is one of the best books I have ever read!"



ROSALIE PAPADOPOULOU... "I finished *Educated* by Tara Westover, an inspiring story about the transformative power of education in a young teenage girl's life. I highly recommend it."

WANT TO APPEAR HERE IN OUR NEXT ISSUE?
Head over to our **Facebook, Twitter or Instagram** and let us know what you've been reading recently. You might find your comment here or even your book club pick!



YOUR FREE DIGI STAMPS!

FIVE WAYS WITH...

Botanical Designs

Create a stunning range of floral greetings with our inspirational ideas



You can never go wrong with flowers to cheer up a loved one, which is why there's every reason to download this issue's free Botanical digi stamps at **papercraftermagazine.co.uk**, designed by the wonderful Helen Fitzjohn. The best thing about these motifs is that you're completely free to tailor the designs to your liking! Turn the page for five inspirational card projects by Kitty Day to get you started, plus some handy tips on how to experiment with your digi stamps to create bespoke greetings.

Download your bonus printables at **papercraftermagazine.co.uk**



We used... * Digi stamps and sentiments from **papercraftermagazine.co.uk** * Coloured card * Lawn Fawn Stitched Hillside * Borders dies * My Favorite Things Stitched Domes and Stitched Circles dies * My Favorite Things Clouds Stencil * Distress Oxide ink-pads: Picked Raspberry, Mowed Lawn, Mermaid Lagoon, Blueprint Sketch * Dandelion Yellow Nuvo Drops * Copic markers * Raindrop and bubble embellishments * Adhesives: glue, foam pads

Blend Ink Effects



1 Brush pink ink onto white stamping card. Layer this on pink card and fix to a card base. Stamp, colour and cut out a wreath and glue in place. Stamp a sentiment in the centre of the wreath.

2 Print out the flower stamps and colour in with pens. Cut out, arrange on the left side and glue in place. Finish by adding bubble dot embellishments.



"Why not apply two sentiments on one card, combining a kind greeting with a flower name?"

KITTY DAY, CB DESIGNER

Craft smart

For professional results use sharp detail scissors to cut the printed digi stamps out after colouring



Stamp Multiple Flowers

1 Layer yellow card onto grey card and glue onto a card base. Print out several of the flower images and colour in. Cut out each one and glue them onto a strip of grey card.

2 Mount this onto white card and glue vertically on the card. Print out the sentiment, die-cut and layer onto yellow card. Attach with foam pads and add a bubble dot embellishment either side.



1 On your desktop computer, visit **papercraftermagazine.co.uk** and search 'Botanical digi stamps' **2** Press 'Click here to download now' then log in – or register if you don't currently have an account, don't worry it's free! **3** Click 'Download now' and you'll see the download processing at the bottom of your screen **4** Open the folder, then right-click on the file and select 'Print'

LEARN SOMETHING NEW!

Layer Your Design

1 Layer white card onto pink, then mint and glue onto a card blank. Print out six flowers and colour with pens.

2 Cut out each flower and attach to the panel with foam pads. Print the circle sentiment and doodle a frame around it. Fix in place with foam pads.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FLOWER!

Stencilled Backgrounds

1 Lightly brush blue ink through a cloud stencil and repeat to create a background panel. Die-cut a hill shape and blend green inks onto it. Attach this onto the cloud background, mount onto card and glue onto a card base.

2 Print out the digi stamps and colour in. Draw some stems and glue onto the card. Cut out the three flowers and attach with foam pads. Add a bubble embellishment to each bloom, then fix a 'Rudbeckia' sentiment below.

RUDBECKIA

Take It Further...

- Print the same motif multiple times for striking backgrounds
- Try reducing the images beforehand on your computer for ditsier prints
- Pair your digi stamps with physical stamp sets from your stash
- Stamp an ornate word similar to the 'Hugs' card
- Go the extra mile and hand letter some calligraphy sentiments

Draw Your Details

1 Attach a strip of green patterned paper onto the bottom of a card base. Add a thin strip of kraft card across the paper joins. Draw two flower stems and colour in. Print out the flowers and sentiment.

2 Colour the flowers, cut out and attach on the card with foam pads. Trim the sentiment, apply a little yellow around the edges and fix in place. Add three yellow Nuvo drops and allow to dry.



ADVERTORIAL

Crystal Art Butterfly Wreath

Create a colourful piece of wall art with Craft Buddy's® latest kit

This butterfly wreath will add a sparkling boost to any room, plus it's easy to make using the latest craft trend, Crystal Art! Craft Buddy's latest kit contains everything needed including an MDF wreath which is light enough to hang up anywhere once completed. If you want to try a new craft, or move up from Crystal Art cards, then this is what you've been waiting for!

We used...

* Craft Buddy Crystal Art Butterfly Wreath kit * Crystal Art Sealer

1 Open your kit and check you have all the correct tools and crystals for your kit. Lay out your tools in front of you.

2 Peel back the clear film on one side of the pink jelly wax and push the narrow end of the pick-up tool into it, twisting back and forth a few times so a small amount enters the opening on the metal tip of the pick-up tool. You need a small amount so that a bit of wax sticks out of the top but not too much.

3 Peel back the film from a section of the wreath where you would like to begin and decide what crystal colour to start with, referring to the chart included. Don't peel the whole film off at once as this will expose the adhesive surface to dust and make it less effective.

4 Pour the bag of crystals you want to start with into the tray. Some will be faceted side up and others will be upside down, simply give the tray a little shake and your crystals will turn the correct way and line up in the grooves of the tray.

5 Use the tool to pick up the crystals and place them on the corresponding coloured circles on your kit. If you put a crystal in the wrong place, it can be picked up with tweezers, or nudged into the correct position with the thick end of the pick-up tool.

6 After completing, you may like to seal it to protect your work. Take a thin brush and lightly brush Crystal Art Sealer in between the crystals and around the bottom edges of the crystals. Remove any excess by wiping with a wet wipe or lint-free cloth. Leave to dry for at least six hours, then hang your wreath.

Craft smart

You may find it easier to work by colour, rather than picking an area to work on at a time

Craft Shop

ALL THAT GLITTERS

After completing your Craft Buddy Crystal Art Butterfly Wreath Kit, £19.99, protect it with a coat of Crystal Art Sealer, £6.99.
craftbuddyshop.com

£866+ WORTH OF GOODIES TO WIN

Four Crafty You Crafty Me kit bundles, worth £182

Perfect for beginner or intermediate crafters, Crafty You Crafty Me kits come complete with all the materials you need and step-by-step instructions. Four lucky winners will get their hands on a bundle complete with three amazing kits: Bunny Felting, a Bee Garland and Mosaic Coasters. They'll seriously ignite your creativity while also creating pieces that brighten up your home.

craftyyoucraftyme.com

TICK **CRAFT KITS**



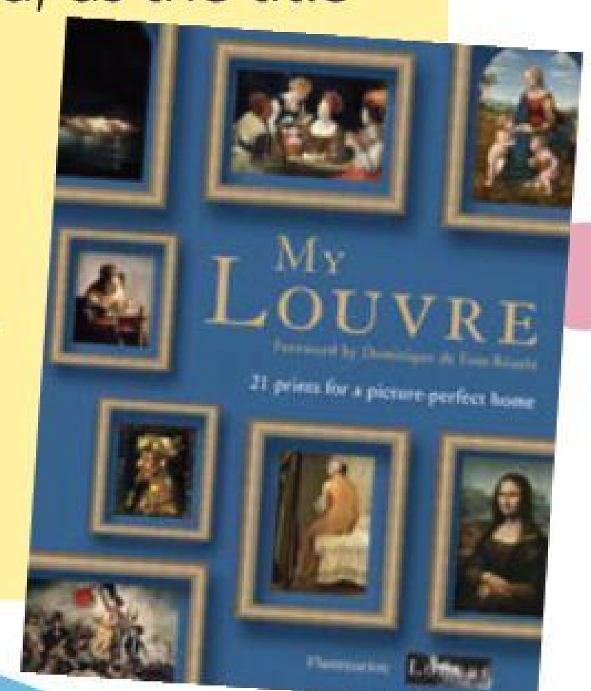
GET 15% OFF KITS AT **CRAFTYYOU CRAFTYME.COM** USING CODE **CBPC15**
Offer ends 8th July 2021

Five Copies of My Louvre: Frameables, worth £84.75

Packed with 21 high-quality reproductions of masterpieces by Da Vinci, Vermeer, Caravaggio and more, My Louvre: Frameables is the optimum way to display premium art without breaking the bank. Each print is removable and, as the title suggests, lends itself perfectly to being framed and hung – giving your craft room an arty feel to aid your creative adventures.

readmedia.co.uk

TICK **LOUVRE PRINTS**







One Pen Heaven Pretty Pastel Stationery set, worth £100

Pastels are a crafters' go-to, and for good reason – they're just so versatile. So it's no surprise that Pen Heaven's latest 'Pretty Pastel' stationery range piqued our interest, and meant we simply had to try and snag some for one lucky reader. By entering, you'll be in with a chance of bagging a stunning mix of pens and notebooks; a bundle definitely worth writing home about.

penheaven.co.uk

TICK **STATIONERY SET**

£866+ WORTH OF GOODIES TO BE WON

ENTER NOW TO BAG YOURSELF SOME INCREDIBLE PRIZES!



One Wildflower Illustration Co. Luxury Papers collection, worth £50

Wildflower Illustration Co. produces the most gorgeous range of stationery goodies, and the best part about it is that they're all sustainably sourced. One lucky reader could be in with the chance of winning a bundle containing stunningly illustrated cards and writing paper. One for the papercrafters out there, this one's a doozy – what are you waiting for?

wildflowerillustrationco.com

TICK **LUXURY PAPERS**



One Crafter's Companion Gemini Pro die-cutting machine, worth £449.99

The latest addition to the Gemini family has us seriously excited. With its mammoth 12" cutting platform, the Gemini Pro gives passionate crafters the ability to supersize their die-cutting and embossing potential. Arguably the crown jewel of Crafter's Companion's illustrious die-cutting machine line, the crafty possibilities genuinely are endless – and we're ecstatic to have one machine ready to go to a loving home.

crafterscompanion.co.uk

TICK **GEMINI PRO**

Turn to page 96 to enter, or head to **crafts-beautiful.com** where you can find more giveaways to win! Make sure you're following us on Instagram **@craftsbeautiful** for exclusive prizes!



CRAFT WITH Stacey

From social media phenomenon to must-read book, *Tap To Tidy* has evolved and become a best-seller in the process. We sat down with the singer and TV personality, Stacey Solomon to find out why she turns to crafting for her me-time.

A messy, toy-strewn living room fills your phone screen with the caption 'Tap To Tidy' and with one flick of your finger it's transformed into a tranquil haven. These completely mesmerising Instagram stories are what 4.2 million people have found solace in after various lockdowns, and it's no wonder it's created a viral sensation and spawned a book. *Tap To Tidy* is a guide filled with organising hacks and craft projects all tied together with Stacey's distinctively chatty tone that's landed her a place on the *Loose Women* panel and as winner of *I'm A Celebrity...Get Me Out of Here!* We grabbed a virtual cuppa with Stacey while she explained why crafting makes her happy, the importance of sharing what you love and why everyone needs a junk trunk. Trust us, once you've read this, you'll want one too.

Hi Stacey! We want to hear all about your love of crafting. Have you found that it helps you in any way?
I'm not one of these people who can sit still and meditate, it just doesn't work for me. When my mind feels busy, focusing on a task really helps me forget about everything else that's going on. I love nothing better than to see a messy corner transform into a happy, tidy space, to know that the junk drawer is finally sorted, or to turn my old candle jars into beautiful vases. But it's much more than that, crafting, tidying and organising is something I do for me. Honestly, it's not just the end result that makes me happy, it's the process that I get something from. It's a bit of time for me. Time to take my mind off whatever I might be worried about. It lets me focus on what's right in front of me.

You have such a busy schedule, how do you find the time to craft?
When I'm at home, if the opportunity presents itself – the big boys are at school, and Rex is having a nap – I will get my glue gun out. This is gold dust for me. Those moments when you get the chance to just sit and do something you love, whether it be exercise, cooking, eating, singing or dancing, just to have those moments is bliss. So I grab them by both hands whenever I can.

If you don't know where to start when taking some me-time, you could think about setting aside a crafty drawer and start adding bits and pieces. That way it's quicker and easier to make something when you do get the chance. I need to stay on top of my crafts, otherwise I'll never find anything and I can't do the things I love, so I've been quite vigilant about that. In fact, I've recently bought myself a crafts trolley, so I've got even more space for all of my supplies!

What's the craft project that you're the most proud of?
It's got to be my Norm, he's my gnome that I made out of some old tights and rice – he's like another son to me! I also really love my pebble family, which I made out of some pebbles that we collected on a family holiday to Devon. It's really easy and now we always have it as a memento from our trip.

How do you get your kids to join in with crafting?
We love to make handmade presents, which is a really nice way to get the children involved. One Father's Day, the boys made Joe (Stacey's fiancé Joe Swash) a Lego frame which was really simple to do and they loved it!

Tell us about the infamous junk trunk! What's the most surprising thing you've kept in there?
I've got a junk trunk outside my house, which Joe just thinks is the worst thing in the world. Basically, you're supposed to put your bins in this trunk – you know, it's just one of those big plastic boxes. I've got so much random stuff in there! It's full of old tin cans, empty candle holders and old glass jars – anything that I think I can use to make something goes into the junk trunk, and I really recommend having one. Then, if you ever feel that pang when you throw something away, that's when you put it in the junk trunk, even though someone else might call it rubbish! Later, when you see something that inspires you, say, on Pinterest, you'll remember, ooh I've got that old glass jar in the junk trunk, that's what I can

make out of it. I make something nearly every day.

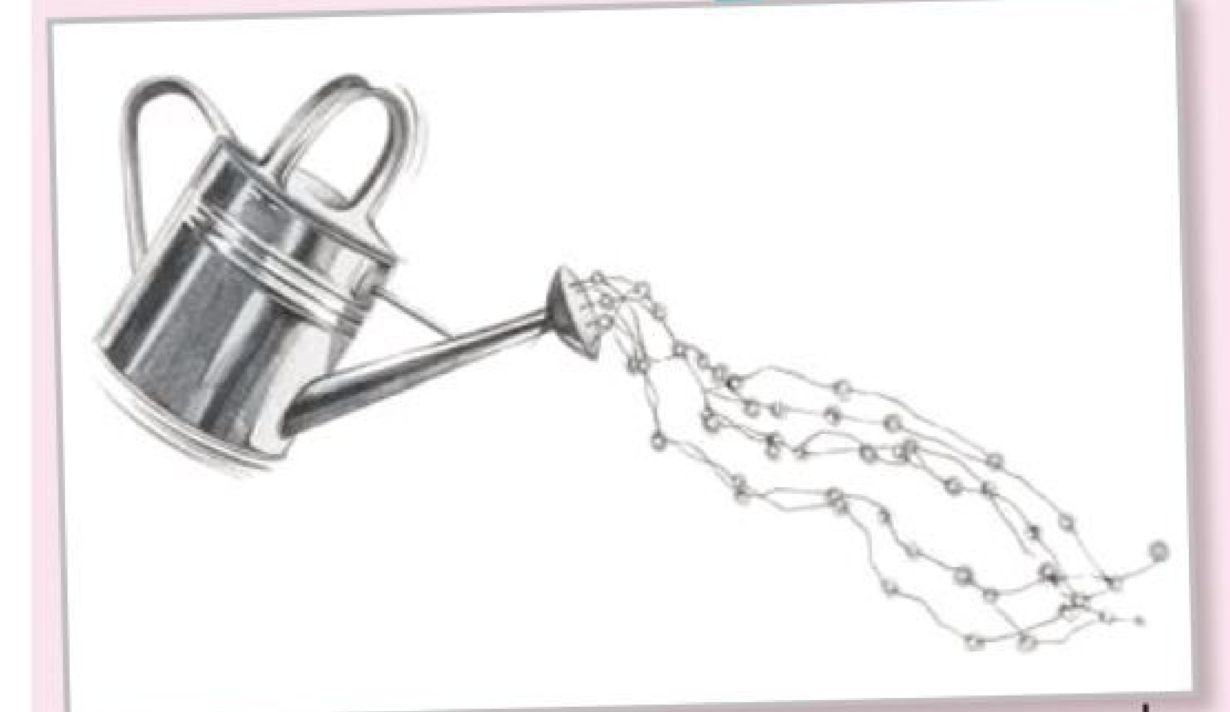
I think probably the most surprising thing I've made from the junk trunk is my vase. I got an old bottle of fabric conditioner, wrapped it in some rope and stuck some pampas grass in it and I absolutely love it! It's on our sideboard in the living room.

Instagram made 'Tap To Tidy' such a phenomenon, do you recommend people sharing things they love doing, like crafting, on social media?
Being able to be open on my Instagram and talk about the way that I'm feeling, whether good or bad, is really helpful. You can really feel that you've got friends on there, people who have your back and will look out for you. So if you are feeling a bit unsure about sharing what you love, whether that's tidying or crafting or whatever else, have a go. You might be really surprised – in a good way! – by the reaction.

What has been your biggest craft fail?
I think the one thing that I haven't quite cracked yet is a macramé. I'd love a massive one that I can pin on the wall. It's just so much combing!



Stacey's Quick Makes



Watering Can Garden Light

This is gorgeous in the garden when it gets dark as when the fairy lights switch on it looks like the watering can is pouring light!

I Used...

* A drill or screwdriver
* An old watering can
* A spray of fairy lights

1 Use a drill to make a few holes in the watering can spout or rose slightly bigger or you could use a screwdriver and wiggle it around.

2 Then, take the spray of fairy lights (I used solar ones) and thread the strands through the holes, to be the 'water'.

3 You could leave it like that, or I looped some string around the handle of the watering can, so I could hang it at an angle off my fence post, with a nail in the fence panel to help it stay put.

Joe's Favourite Photo Frame

With a lot of my make ups, Joe will be like, do we have to have them everywhere?! He's just teasing but this is one thing I've made he actually really liked!

I Used...

* Two sticks, about the same length
* String
* Fake foliage
* Mini fairy lights
* Mini wooden pegs or clips
* Photos

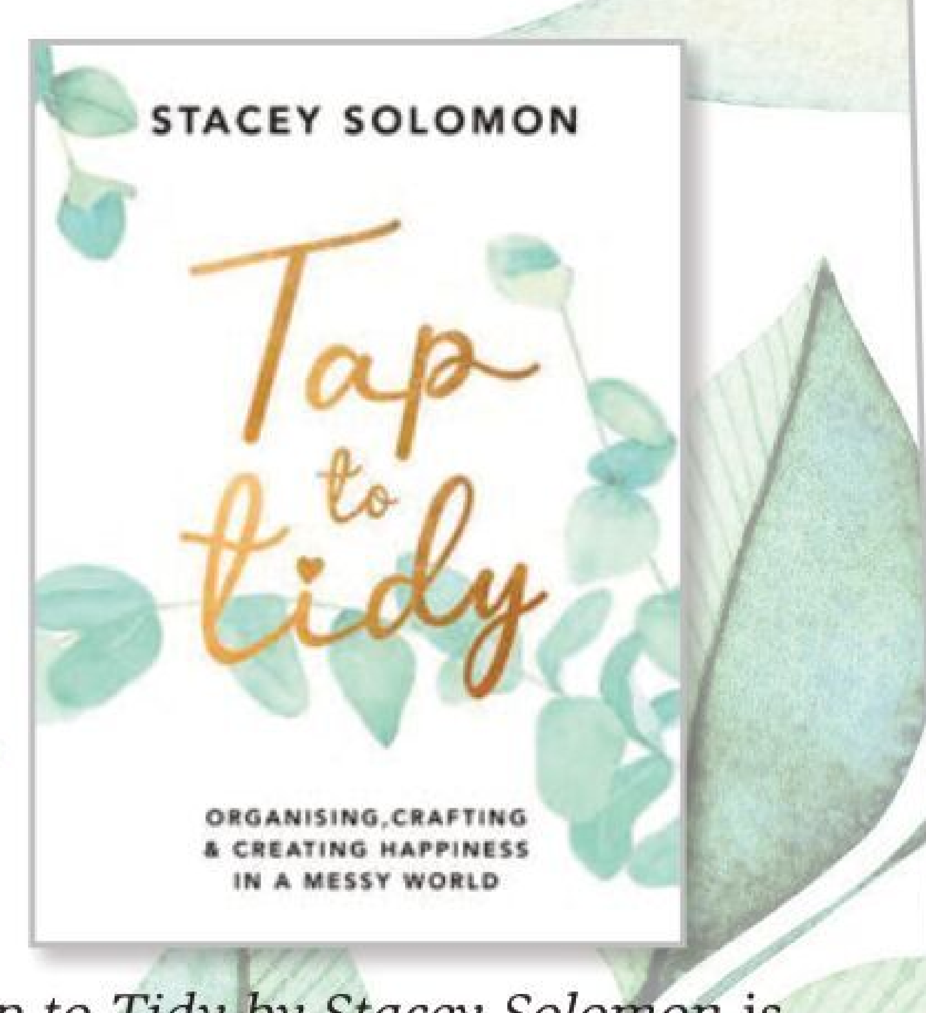
1 Your sticks will make the top and bottom of your 'frame'.

2 Tie four pieces of string of equal length to one stick, then tie the other end of each string to the second stick, so they hang straight down.

3 Next, tie one more piece of string to the top stick, attaching it at each end, this is what you'll use to hang it from a nail or hook on the wall.

4 Wrap some fake foliage and fairy lights around the sticks to decorate them, then peg photos to the vertical strings: I printed off some family pictures.





Tap to Tidy by Stacey Solomon is out now. £14.99, Ebury Press

YOUR CRAFT CHAT

We love hearing from you – check out the latest makes from the CB community



MAY'S WINNER

STAR LETTER PRIZE!



This month, our lucky winner will be receiving an incredible range of goodies from Lavinia Stamps. Made from high-quality transparent resin, these stamps are ready for mounting on clear acrylic stamping blocks without the need for adhesive. Their intricate detailing will seriously level up your papercrafts and greetings!
laviniastamps.com

CARING CRAFTS

"I've been very busy and made uniform wash bags for students and ambulance crew, a baby quilt and fabric 'box' with goodies for a newborn. Plus, a heart cushion for someone who has undergone a mastectomy!"
@RuthHallBond, via Twitter



TOP OF THE BOX

"I've knitted and just finished a post box topper, I even had an undercover mission at 11pm to put it on the box in my lane!"
Susan Evans, via Facebook



BIRDS OF PARADISE

"I've made a tag for a Facebook craft group I'm part of. The theme is birds, I used feathers and clay pebbles made with my own clay!"
Nicole McGinlay, via Facebook



MEMORY MAKERS

"I made some memory tap shoes! They are long loved shoes ready for a rest and I got asked to paint a map with special places on."
Christie Louise Barnes, via Facebook



SPRING BRIGHTS

"I've made some pretty daffodils for my Easter cards."

Julia Nowak, via Facebook



PAPER DELIGHTS

"I made a handbag and a shoe out of paper!"

Beverley Ann Human, via Facebook

PAWESOME PETS

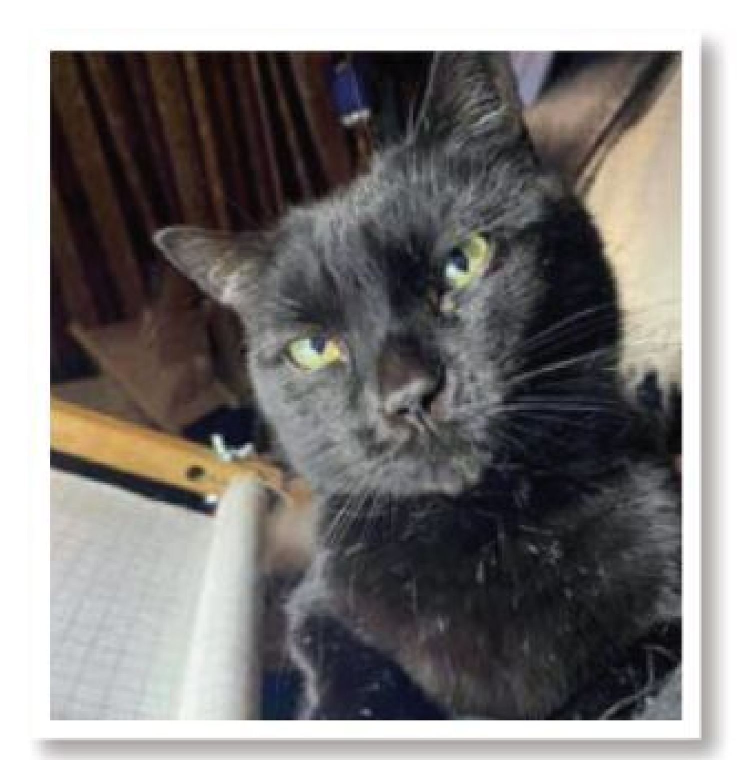
We catch up with CB readers and their fluffy friends





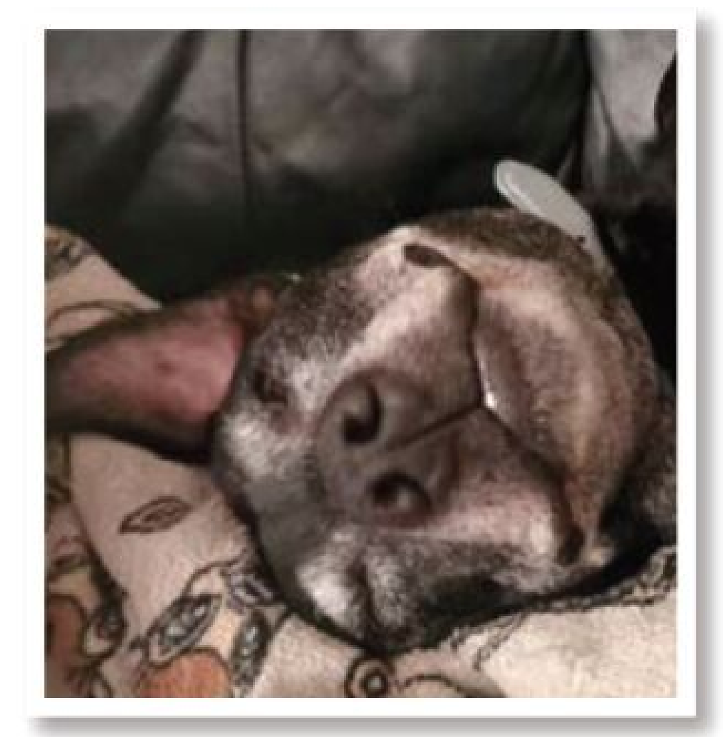
"Here is my Ragdoll cat Oscar, who loved my daughter's chalk art rainbow, he just had to roll in it!"

Sheryl Collitor, via email



"This is Marley, who likes to 'help' me with my needlework and other crafts, but generally gets in the way!"

Morti Bromilow, via Facebook



"This is Diego who is 12 in June, he never leaves my side and especially now since I've been working from home."

Kelly Louise Cauldwell, via Facebook

We asked...

Have you tried a new craft this year?

61% SAID YES I HAVE!

39% SAID NO, NOT YET





FIND A CRAFTY FRIEND

Carrie Izydore, 51

I love general crafts, scrapbooking, rubber stamping and card making. I'd like to hear from anyone and everyone.

5804 Wilson Drive, Bethel Park, PA 15102

Charlotte Simpson, 36

My favourite hobbies include oil painting, watercolours, knitting, card making and more! I'd love to hear from anyone.

102 Cromwell Road, Newbury, Berkshire, RG14 2HW

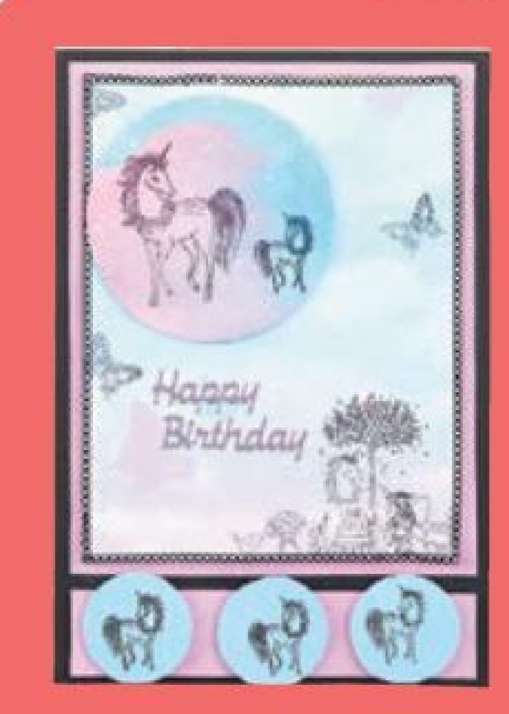
Dawn Bickers-Hagyard, 49

Card making, ScanNCut projects, sewing and vinyl are my favourite hobbies. I would like to hear from like-minded people with a sense of humour.

8 Askam Ave, Pontefract, West Yorkshire, WF8 2PN

WE ASKED...

Show us what you've made with your free gifts!



"I experimented with the February issue unicorn themed stamps and made this colour-coordinated greeting! No colouring was needed as the stamps are so beautiful!"

Doreen Green, via letter



"I loved the March issue and this is what I made for Mother's Day – the stamps are fantastic!"

Tina Janney, via Facebook



"I made some cards with the March issue stamps, coloured with distress inks."

Karen Price, via Facebook



"I couldn't wait to try out the April gift, so I made this!"

Linda Palmer, via email

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"Don't miss out on this incredible chance to get your hands on a die-cutting machine!"

JESSICA ELKIN, EDITOR



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"I'd like to think I've helped pass the long hours of lockdown in an enjoyable way"


Felicity Jennings of Felicity Crafts



In our first new-style feature, WI member Felicity Jennings of Felicity Crafts reveals how crafting has helped her, and others through these trying times


Discover how to make this origami snowdrop card

Felicity was first introduced to the joy of being creative by her nan and auntie, both of whom were keen crafters. "I love to try a whole variety of crafts and some of my favourites are crochet, knitting, dressmaking, printing and cross-stitch. If it's creative, I like to try it," she tells CB.

"I joined Spa Sweethearts WI in 2015, where I've made friends with some fabulous women and learnt amazing things," Felicity continues. "I had my first camping trip (aged 49!) with them and even found the skills and confidence to set up my own online craft school – all from joining the WI. I have just started my third year as a WI President and I am truly proud to be part of such an amazing organisation."

Crafting has always provided a good way to help cope with difficult times in your life and this year has really brought that to the fore, as Felicity explains. "Before the first lockdown, I'd been running a small WI craft group in my home with ten of us around my kitchen table. When the news of Covid restrictions hit, my 15-year old son suggested that we film the iris folding demonstration I had already prepared for my next class. We shared it on the Spa Sweethearts' Facebook page and it all just snowballed from there!"

GOING ONLINE

The group had already decided to open up their sub groups to as many women as possible and before long the videos were being shared all around the country, greatly helped by the fabulous UWI and WI Wanderers. "We set up a YouTube channel, Felicity Jennings, in response to demand which now has over 1K subscribers," Felicity continues. "We embraced Zoom early and before long other WIs were asking me to come and lead them in craft sessions online. The lovely treasurer of Spa Sweethearts then helped me to set up my independent craft school, Felicity Crafts, and I now visit WI groups from all around the country via Zoom to teach a whole range of crafts. Our YouTube channel has over 31,000 views and I'd like to think that's 31,000 times I have helped someone to pass the long hours of lockdown in an enjoyable way."

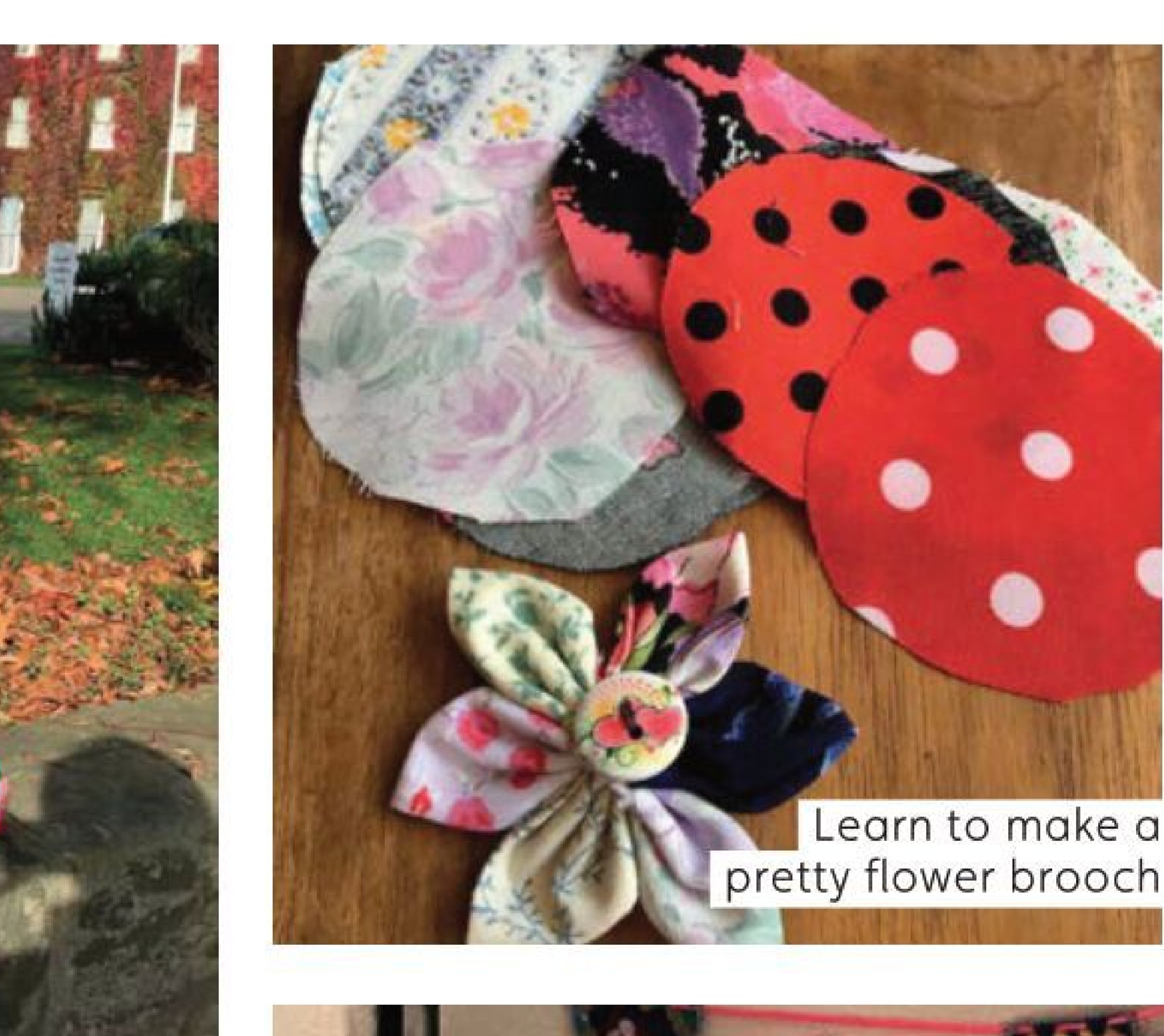
> "I have always been keen to make my classes accessible to the widest audience possible"

Teaching online has allowed Felicity to connect with her students in a way she'd never imagined possible. "Geography is no barrier, I have taught people as far away as Canada and Spain!" she enthuses. "I really enjoy the connection it creates with the wider WI community. It's always fascinating to see the amazing diversity of the WI from tiny rural groups to large cities, covering a wealth of female talent and experience. They really are inspiring women." She adds, "Filming craft tutorials actually works really well as I can use close up shots to demonstrate the small fiddly bits. Like everyone I have had to learn a whole range of new technological skills but the biggest challenge is still keeping my cats off the craft table!"

HELPING OUT

Amongst the highlights of her time teaching crafts, Felicity feels that the greatest so far is, "definitely my crochet course, which over 5K women have now done. I also supported the Show the Love campaign with lots of WI's this year. I love that campaign as it is so grass roots and easily involves so many women, from just displaying a green heart in your window to yarn bombing your entire town. I am also a primary school teacher and discovering how much my videos had helped both the children and their parents to cope with the pressures of lockdown was definitely a great moment. It's always wonderful when someone tells me they are proud of a craft that I have taught them."

Felicity's main aim is to make all of her crafts suitable for every skill level, using materials that most people would already have at home. "I have always been keen to make my classes



Learn to make a pretty flower brooch



Create a spring wreath, just from paper!



Try your hand at macramé



Felicity at work with her feline helper



Check out Felicity's Facebook page, FCraftTeacher, for details of her latest workshops

accessible to the widest audience possible with little specialist equipment required. It's easy to create something beautiful with just a glue stick, paper and scissors," she explains. When it comes to her own craft essentials, she reveals that, "I am always telling people of the joys of an inexpensive glue gun, but really you can't beat a good pair of scissors. People often joke about how often I use a coaster to draw around too!"

When it comes to finding ideas for her next project or class, Felicity says, "I live in the very beautiful town of Harrogate in Yorkshire, so inspiration can come from all around me. When I was 16, I visited Shakespeare's birthplace and saw a fantastic hand-pieced quilt. This inspired me to learn English paper piecing and begin a lifetime quilt project I have been working on for over 30 years."

FILMING IN PROGRESS

A typical working day for Felicity tends to be pretty packed. "My son and I still film the videos together most Sundays. I now have a craft studio set up in the house and I love rearranging the background to suit the season or the craft. It is also important to find time to be creative. There is a lot of admin involved but there is nothing better than spending some time playing around with new ideas and working out how to teach it."

So, what can we expect from Felicity Crafts throughout 2021? "Well, my calendar is still very full with Zoom talks up until July. As we come out of lockdown I would love to develop live craft sessions, possibly with the WI Federations, as well as keeping up the online sessions." As for her current crafty project, Felicity reveals, "I have received lots of admiration for the crocheted ponchos I wear on the videos so I am currently making them in a range of colours before teaching them at Felicity Crafts."

Before signing off, we just had time to ask Felicity for her top crafting tips. "My advice to everyone is always just to have a go, and not worry about failing or making everything perfect. And if in doubt, follow a fantastic video on Felicity Crafts!"

QUICK FIRE QUESTIONS

TEA OR COFFEE, AND WHAT'S IN THE BISCUIT TIN?
Tea and a homemade ginger biscuit.

WHAT'S ON THE RADIO AS YOU WORK?
Radio 4 – I love a classic serial.

YOUR FAVOURITE SONG OF ALL TIME?
Dolly Parton's *Jolene*.

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOURSELF IN THREE WORDS?
Creative, kind, chatty.

WHAT WOULD YOU WANT WITH YOU ON A DESERT ISLAND?
My cats.

IF YOU COULD MAKE SOMETHING FOR A CELEBRITY, WHO WOULD IT BE, AND WHAT WOULD YOU MAKE FOR THEM?
I would make something for Lin Manuel Miranda in the hope that he would give me tickets to see Hamilton when it returns to the West End!



TO FIND YOUR LOCAL WI... Use the postcode search tool at thewi.org.uk where there's a list of federations and details on how to make contact with your local WI Advisor.

Die-Cutting Diorama Frames

Create gorgeous styled scenes perfect for any occasion

Keren Baker has created these impressive diorama-style cards with some clever die-cut frames. And, the fun doesn't stop there, you can even create extra dimension by adding embroidery thread to your elements so that they hang and move within your greetings!

We used...

⁎ Altenew Thin Frame 3D Die Set ⁎ Clearly Besotted stamps: Clearly Contained, Clearly Contained Contents ⁎ Altenew stamps: Tall Tale, Ornamental Bliss ⁎ Altenew Mini Delight Smile Blooms stamp and die set ⁎ Cardstock: white, bright pink, green, orange and blue ⁎ Hero Hues India Ink Black ink-pad ⁎ My Favorite Things Razzleberry ink-pad ⁎ Catherine Pooler Designs ink-pads: Tiki Torch, Party Dress, Grass Skirt, Tiara ⁎ Sakura white gel pen ⁎ Alcohol markers: blue, orange, pink, skin colours ⁎ Cotton thread: blue, pink, orange ⁎ Adhesives: foam pads, double-sided tape



Floral Friendship Card

1 Using a tent fold card blank measuring 13.5cm square, adhere a slightly smaller piece of blue cardstock to it. Die-cut four of the smaller frame dies out of white cardstock, then fold them and glue them together. Insert the edges and glue them to create a frame. Fix a strip of green cardstock behind the bottom part of the frame using foam pads.

2 Stamp flowers and leaves using orange, pink and green inks. Cut out and attach pink thread to the reverse of them, sandwiching the thread between foam pads. Stick double-sided tape to the reverse of the top of the frame and fix the threads into position.

3 Adhere the frame to the card base using foam pads. Stamp a sentiment onto green cardstock, then trim a 'V' out of the left-hand side. Fix a flower and a leaf to the top of the frame using foam pads. Finish by adding white dots to the flowers using a gel pen.

Fish Frame Card

1 Adhere a piece of green cardstock to a 16.5cm x 13cm tent fold blank. Die-cut two long and two short strips from the Altenew set to create a landscape frame. Fold the pieces together and adhere and slot the ends to make a frame.

2 Stamp and colour three goldfish bowls and five goldfish. Adhere four of the fish onto the bowls and add bubbles using a white gel pen. Using pieces of orange thread, attach one to the reverse of each bowl sandwiching the threads between foam pads. Fix pieces of double-sided tape to the reverse of the top of the frame and stick the threads into position.

3 Add strips of blue and pink cardstock to the base, then attach the frame to the base using foam pads. Stamp a sentiment onto green cardstock and fix a piece of orange to it. Trim a 'V' out of the left side of the sentiment, then adhere it and the final fish to complete the project.



TRICKS OF THE TRADE

CRAFTS BEAUTIFUL DESIGNER KEREN BAKER IS ON HAND TO HELP

* For a quick shortcut to get this look, use a black fine-liner and draw the 'thread' to give the illusion of the elements hanging down.
* A stamp positioner will make doing lots of stamping quicker and easier.
* Add some coloured pieces of cardstock to each side of the frame and you have a puppet theatre for the perfect kids card.



Birthday Book Greeting

1 Using an 18cm x 18cm white blank, stick a smaller square of orange cardstock onto it. Fix strips of pink, green and blue onto the orange. Die-cut four of the longest frame dies, then fold and adhere them. Insert the edges together and glue to create the frame.

2 Stamp seven books and the little girl, then colour in and cut out. Add dots using a black fine-liner and white gel pen. Using pieces of blue thread, attach them to the reverse of the books sandwiching the threads between foam pads.

3 Fix double-sided tape to the reverse of the top of the frame and stick the threads into position. Attach the frame to the card base using foam pads. Stamp a sentiment onto green and secure to the frame, then adhere the girl on top using foam pads to finish.

Craft Shop



BRILLIANT BOOKWORM

Between the pages of a book is a lovely place to be! Recreate the birthday book greeting with Altenew's Tall Tale stamp set. £19.99, **bumbleberrys.co.uk**

GOLD FISH

Make lots of fishy friends for your fish frame card with the Clearly Contained stamp set from Clearly Besotted. £10.45, **clearly besottedstamps.com**



Be Inspired



SUPERCRAFTS AT HOME WITH Julie Peasgood

We visit picturesque Prague and admire some portraits with a difference...

I first encountered Anthea Yabsley in connection with a cruise I was asked to review, when her outstanding travel PR company, IDeal Public Relations, masterminded every aspect of a complicated itinerary, ensuring everything was smooth and stress-free. We later became friends and I discovered we shared a lifelong passion for crafting and a love of animals. I'm now determined that one day when I own a dog, Anthea will be commissioned to commemorate it in all its glory!

The Supercrafters will be sailing soon! For more info visit **supercraftcruises.com**

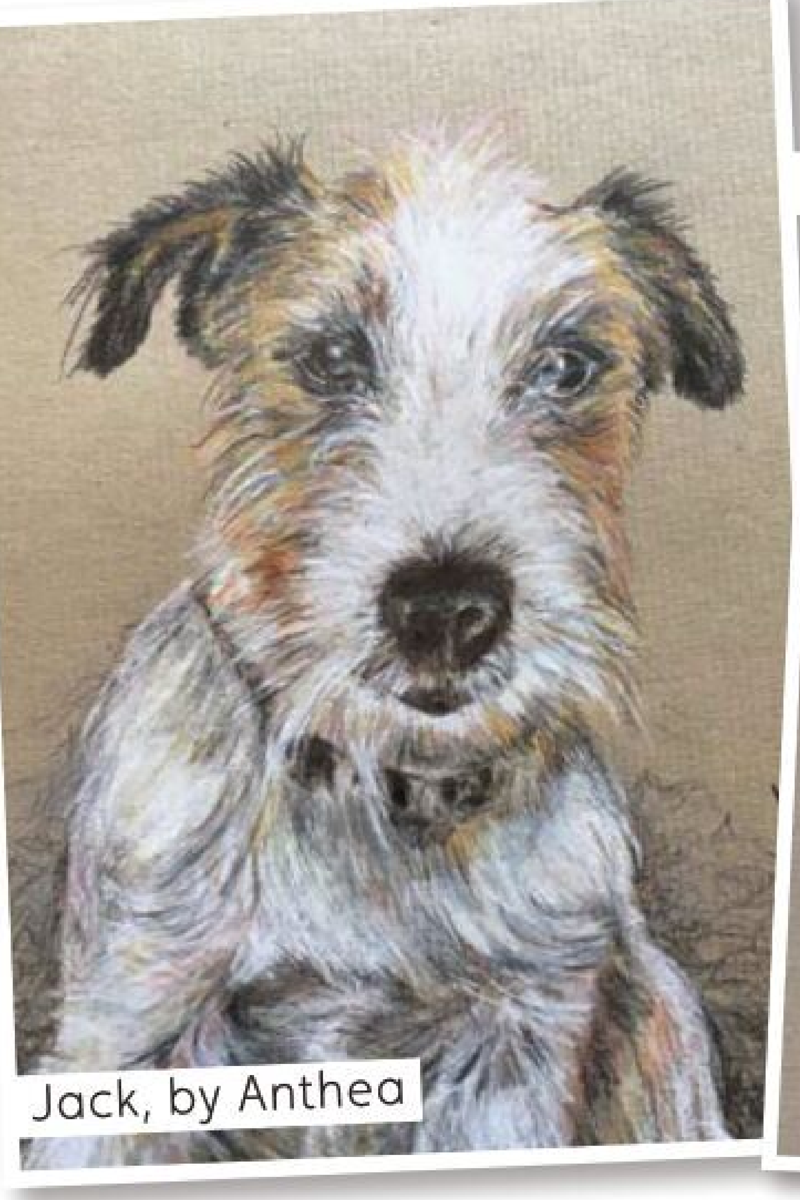


Anthea Yabsley at work, upcycling a mirror

A pretty pine marten

Meet Supercrafter Anthea Yabsley

Born and raised on a dairy farm in the West Country, Anthea Yabsley was inspired from an early age to draw and paint the animals and nature that surrounded her. Last year, during the first lockdown, she also taught herself to knit, raising money for charity with a series of hats for family and friends. She is currently upcycling furniture and mirrors for clients, creating distinctive paint effects using products supplied by **lovehandmadew13.co.uk** and **fifthsense.co.uk**



Jack, by Anthea



Poised for flight...

Anthea's main interest however continues to be her hugely popular and much-praised animal drawings, using just coloured pencils and paper. "I found picking up a pencil and knitting needles has been very therapeutic for my mental health during lockdown, and crafting has helped me repair the loss of self-esteem I experienced when my PR travel company really suffered in March last year."

From dogs and cats to horses, cows and even guinea pigs, Anthea creates bespoke, hand-drawn portraits of animals for commissions. "It's all in the eyes" she confides, "Once I've captured that expression in the animal the rest pretty much comes together, and I love to see the owner's reaction when I present them with their special drawing." Check out Anthea's Etsy shop **AnimalArt byAnthea** or go to her Instagram **@idealpr1** for her latest projects.

This month's Crafty City: Prague

The creative capital of the Czech Republic, Prague is famous for its beautifully preserved medieval castles and cathedrals, linked by a tangle of narrow cobblestone streets that form the old town. Anthea fell in love with the city when she visited a few years ago. She advises, "Don't miss the superb Mucha Museum, dedicated to the extraordinarily talented Czech Art Nouveau artist Alphonse Mucha. He made his name designing theatre posters for the famous actress Sarah Bernhardt, and the museum includes many examples of his exquisite paintings, posters and personal sketch books on display."

The vast National Museum of Prague is stunning too, displaying Czech designed costumes, furniture, homewares and interiors. Many rooms have interactive displays and Anthea suggests, "In those dedicated to Czech fashion, you can pick out small samples of fabric from a box of scrap material and, with the paper and pencils provided, take inspiration from the exquisite dresses on display to create drawings of your own unique designs."

Prague also has a proud tradition of puppet making so try to catch a show at the National Marionette theatre, or even join a puppet making workshop. Your very own Pinocchio awaits!

SUPERCRAFT FACTFILE: Mucha Museum, +420 224 216 415, **mucha.cz** National Museum, +420 224 497 111, **nm.cz** National Marionette Theatre, +420 224 819 322, **mozart.cz**

Folded Orchid Set

Create beautiful greetings inspired by exotic flowers

All you need is paper, scissors, a pen and our free templates to create these beautiful orchids for Helen Fitzjohn's project. A traditional Japanese pattern in modern shades of coral, old gold and mint look great with delicate peach tinted flowers. Choose between a box card containing a flower or a concertina greeting, plus a matching gift box for a small present.



We used...

* White linen textured paper
* White textured card
* Circle dies * Stabilo no.26 light flesh tint brush pen
* Pearl gems * Adhesives: glue, foam pads

Make a Floral Card

1 Cut textured card, 12cm x 19cm. From the left measure 5.5cm and score vertically. From this point measure 4.5cm and score vertically. Measure another 4.5cm and score vertically. Turn the card over with the 5cm panel on the left, measure 8.5cm and score vertically, measure 4.5cm and score vertically and finally another 4.5cm and score vertically. Fold up the card and you should have a concertina shape.

2 Print and cut out the three coloured panels provided on the pattern pages and stick to the narrow strips on the card. Add a grey-green rectangle to the front and a happy birthday sentiment. Print out and cut out 'with love' out as a 3.5cm circle, using a die, punch or compass.

3 Print out the three orchid templates provided on the pattern pages and cut one of each size from linen paper. Scribble a peach brush pen onto an acrylic stamping block or something glossy like an old plate, piece of acetate or an old tile.

4 Take a water brush pen or paintbrush, dip in water and pick up a little colour. Apply loosely to the orchids. When dry add some tiny dots to the centre with the pen. Finish by sticking the orchids and some small pearl gems to the front of the card.

Create a Box Card

1 Print the template provided on the pattern pages onto white textured card then score, fold and cut out. Place an 8cm die in the centre and run it through a die-cutting machine to create the hole. Alternatively cut it out using a scalpel.

2 Stick a green square of card in the centre then glue the small tabs to create a box. Cut out a large orchid from linen paper and add colour as before. When dry, layer the pieces using foam pads.

3 Stick on tiny pearl gems, a Happy Birthday greeting on the top side and a 'with love' circle to the front. Write your birthday message on the reverse and wrap in tissue paper.





Craft smart

Turn the orchid templates over and place them on the back of the paper you are cutting them from to hide the pencil lines



"Use patterned origami papers for a variety of looks and change the orchid colours to match your papers"

HELEN FITZJOHN, CB DESIGNER



Fold a Gift Box

Print out the template, score, fold and cut out. Use a glue stick on the tabs and fold up to create a box. Add a little shredded paper and your gift.

Die-cut the Happy Birthday sentiment as a 3.5cm circle and punch a small hole in the top. Thread a little coral cord through and stick in place. Paint a small orchid and stick to the top.

Craft Shop



LOVELY LINEN

Add a touch of luxury to your cards with white linen textured paper, from £1.56, and card, from £3.31. **papermill direct.co.uk**



BRUSH OFF

This set of twelve Stabilo 68 brush pens has a variety of colours, including a peachy shade. £16, **cultpens.com**

MEET THE
EXPERTS


Tracey Dutton, Lavinia Stamps


Marion Emberson, WOW! Embossing Powder


Colette Smith, CB Designer


Melissa Hyland, CB Deputy Editor

The Beginner's Guide To STAMPING

We provide the lowdown on one of crafting's most popular techniques

Many new crafters choose stamping to start out – it's one of the easiest to learn and once you've mastered the basics, you can take it further by combining it with various other techniques and media. Check out our guide to the types of stamp and ink-pads available, plus how to achieve different effects, then try your hand at our other stamping projects elsewhere in this issue!



KNOW YOUR STAMPS

OUR QUICK GUIDE TO THE VARIETY OF STAMPS AND GADGETS AVAILABLE



amazon.co.uk

WOOD MOUNTED

Attached to wooden blocks, they often have the image printed on top allowing you to see the end result.


bhclaysmith.etsy.com

RUBBER

These usually come unmounted, so you will need a clear block of an appropriate size which you can attach the stamp to using mount spray.

claritystamp.com

CLEAR

Similar to rubber stamps, these are made of polymer and are also sold unmounted. They cling to a clear block so no need for adhesives.


papercraftermagazine.co.uk

DIGI

Digi stamps are digital image files that you can print from your computer, allowing you to colour them in.


inkylicious.co.uk

STAMPING BLOCKS

Attach unmounted stamps to these acrylic blocks to make them easier to hold and print your image.



crafterscompanion.co.uk

STAMPING PLATFORM

Sometimes known as a stamp press, this handy gadget makes it easier to position and align your stamps for perfect results.

THINK ABOUT INK



DYE INKS

This is the most common type of ink-pad, usually with water-based inks. This type dries quickly, so not suitable for embossing.

PIGMENT INKS

Formed using a glycerin base, this type of ink is thicker and takes longer to dry, making it great for embossing.

WATERPROOF DYE INKS

Slightly different to regular dye inks, these have a different base product, which means they won't 'bleed' when combined with water-based products.

SOLVENT INKS

The permanent formula of this ink can be used on just about anything, making it a great all-rounder and ideal for scrapbooking.

WIN

a Silhouette Mint Custom Stamp Maker, worth £59.99, at **crafts-beautiful.com**



MAKE YOUR OWN STAMPS

The Silhouette Mint Custom Stamp Maker might be small but it packs a punch way above its miniature size. Its special thermal printing ability lets you make 3D reliefs of custom designs on Mint™ stamp sheets which can be created by you or via designs from the Silhouette Design Store. Once you have crafted your stamp and printed it out simply apply Mint™ inks to your stamp and you are ready to roll!
graphtecgb.shop



Find embossing powders and more at **wowembossing powder.co.uk**

Make this!

STAMPING & HEAT EMBOSSING

Marion Emberson of WOW! Embossing Powder explains how to add some extra glitz to your stamping

"Embossing powders are designed to be sprinkled onto a stamped image whilst still wet – use an embossing ink-pad which is clear and will hold the powder in place. You then gently melt the powder with a heat gun, creating a smooth, glossy finish."

Try this!

1 Create a 12.5cm square blank from acetate. Stamp a cluster of hearts repeatedly onto white cardstock, 12.5cm square, using VersaMark ink, then heat emboss with Primary Pink Robin embossing powder, creating a diagonal area of hearts. Colour some of these in hearts with a light pink brush pen and water, then leave to dry.

2 Apply temporary adhesive onto the back of the heart-embossed cardstock and fix onto another piece of white card. Trim around the top of the embossed hearts and separate the two pieces of cardstock. These will be for the front panel.

3 Measure and cut out another couple of diagonal pieces of cardstock for the back panel. Adhere all four parts onto the card base and set aside. Stamp a cluster of hearts onto white cardstock and heat emboss with bonding powder. Sprinkle glitter on top, reheat, let it cool and brush off any excess.

4 Colour them in and cut out. Secure a strip of gold mirri to a strip of vellum, cut it into a banner and stick the cluster of hearts on top, then onto the card front along with a stamped sentiment.

STAMPING & MASKING

Colette Smith shows how to get even more out of your stamps

"Masking is a simple, clever and cheap technique that allows you to overlap stamped images. For example, a floral stamp can be used so that it looks like the flowers are sitting in front or behind each other. The masks can be re-used a few times before they get too messy and the tackiness has diminished too much."

Here's how to get started...

1 Stamp the largest flower from a floral stamp set at the bottom centre of white card, 10.5cm x 14.5cm. Using the same flower, stamp the design onto masking paper, allow it to fully dry and carefully cut out.

2 Place the mask over the stamped flower, then stamp again either side of it, overlapping the images. Continue masking and stamping with various blooms and leaves in rows. Remove the masks to reveal the complete image. Colour in with alcohol markers, then add a stamped sentiment and matt onto a white card blank.

Make this!





See Tracey's collection of fairytale stamps at **laviniastamps.com**

HOW TO STAMP THE PERFECT IMAGE

Tracey Dutton of Lavinia Stamps offers her top tips

"Lavinia Stamps produce highly detailed polymer stamps, most of which are silhouettes. Sometimes stamping a silhouette can be a little tricky, so we always use Versafine, an oil-based ink designed for detail stamps, which provides a great solid colour.

When you start, it's important to check that your ink-pad isn't too dry. I always place a wad of paper under the card I am stamping onto which disperses the pressure, allowing good coverage. It's always worth taking your time, allowing the stamp to sit on the card for a short while, maybe 10 seconds, whilst applying an even pressure to allow the ink to soak in.

Your choice of card is equally as important as your choice of stamp! We use our multifarious card which is super smooth – the less fibres, the better the stamped image result, depending on the effect you want to achieve."

TAKE IT FURTHER...

Feeling inspired? Check out our Stamp and Colour With Confidence video course at **youtube.com/TheCraftsChannel**, featuring 10 tutorials hosted by our very own Corinne Bradd. The course includes a free resource bundle to use alongside, with printable papers, sentiment toppers, digi stamps and projects – check out the Free Downloads at **crafts-beautiful.com**





For sneak peeks at the CB team's crafty fun, the chance to win exclusive freebies and to nab snippets of craftspiration, follow us on Instagram!

@craftsbeautiful

Master Rotation Stamping

Jump into a set of sun-soaked makes bursting with positivity

Who doesn't need some rainbow joy in their lives? Claire Richards has created these cheerful designs using Concord & 9th Turnabout stamps, which allow for precise background stamping in any colours you fancy. You need to be accurate, so this is definitely one for your stamping platform!



We used...

* Concord & 9th Rainbow Turnabout and Brighter Days stamps * Concord & 9th Brighter Days dies * My Favorite Things Stitched Scallop Basic Edges dies * Ranger Distress Oxide Stormy Sky ink-pads * Ink-pads: blue, red, purple, navy, green, yellow, pink * Cardstock: blue, pink, yellow, turquoise, black, red * Masking paper * Alcohol markers * Silver embossing powder * Tools: stamping platform, repositionable tape runner * Clear gems * Adhesives

Add Negative Die-cuts

1 Create a blue blank, 11cm x 14cm. Trim white card to 10cm x 13cm. Using the step-by-step opposite, create a rainbow background using red, purple, navy and blue inks.

2 Die-cut a large cloud through the top of the panel. Use the offcut to line up and die-cut an identical shape through the front of the blank. Blend blue distress oxide ink around the shape on the inside panel, then stamp and heat emboss a sentiment in silver.

3 Adhere the rainbow panel to the greeting. Die-cut sun beams from yellow and adhere to the top-right corner of the card front. Embellish with clear gems.

How To: Use a Stamping Platform



1 Line up the stamp on the platform. Draw a guide for your card, numbering the sides.



2 Tape the card in place on the guide. Stamp the first colour, then clean the stamp.

STAMPING Special



Create Scallop Trims

1 Create a pink blank, 11cm x 14cm. Cut white card to 11cm x 14cm, then build up a rainbow background using various colours.

2 Die-cut a diagonal scalloped edge from the bottom of the panel and secure it to the blank. Stamp a large cloud and two smaller ones onto white, then cut them out. Blend around the edges of the larger cloud with blue distress oxide ink.

3 Stamp a sentiment onto the cloud in green ink. Fix one cloud to the greeting with glue and the two remaining ones with foam pads. Pop two red hearts behind the large cloud, then stamp crosses in blue ink either side.

Colour CLEVER

Stamp the elements of your rainbows twice for a more pronounced effect



3 Rotate the card 90° and stamp the second element in the next colour. Clean the stamp again.



4 Repeat the technique for the third and fourth colours. Stamp 'Hooray!' under each rainbow in black.

Craft Shop



RAINBOW BRIGHT
Build your backgrounds with Concord & 9th's Rainbow Turnabout stamp. £15, **sevenhillscrafts.co.uk**

HELLO SUNSHINE
Concord & 9th's Brighter Days die set includes clouds, sunbeams and sentiments. £14.49, **bumbleberrys.co.uk**





Butterfly Die Set

Get your hands on this issue's send-away kit

Whether you're new to die-cutting or a seasoned pro, Keren Baker is on hand to show you endless ways to get creative with your exclusive collection. Have a go at shaker elements, create easy apertures, give partial die-cutting a whirl or simply layer up your motifs for stand-out results.

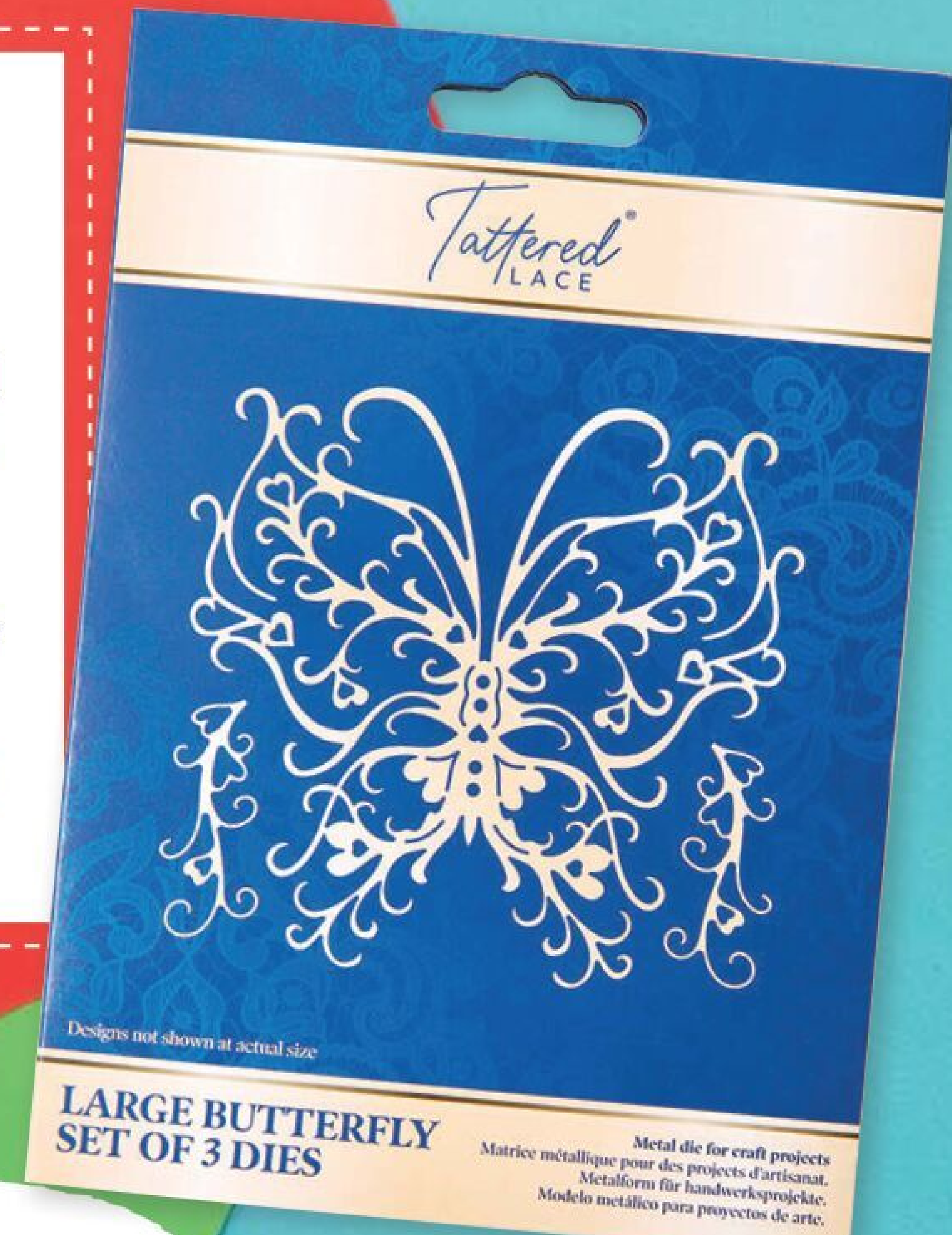


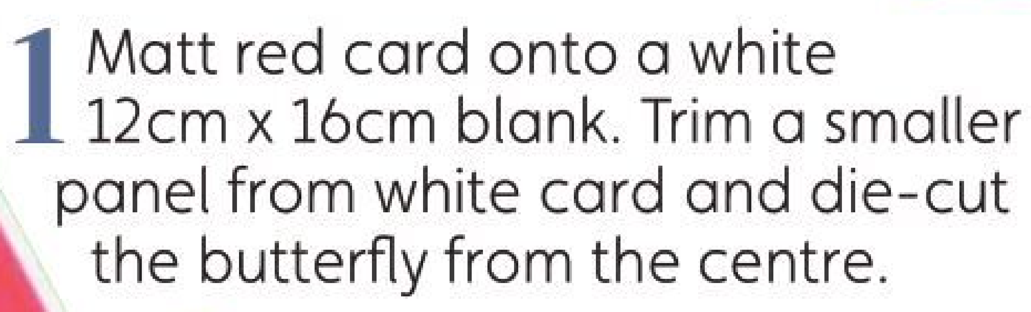
WHAT'S INSIDE?

★ Three luxury metal dies for smooth cuts every time

★ Large butterfly motif to keep forever

★ Mini intricate die duo for professional finishes





1 Matt red card onto a white 12cm x 16cm blank. Trim a smaller panel from white card and die-cut the butterfly from the centre.

2 Snip a slightly smaller layer from white, add equal sized strips of coloured card, then fix to the reverse of the aperture with foam pads.

3 Stamp a sentiment in black ink below the butterfly. Adhere to the card front and embellish with pearls.







1 Take a white blank, 12cm x 15cm. Die-cut a semicircle from the folded edge using a circle die and run multiple strips of coloured card down the centre.

2 Die-cut the butterfly from white and adhere the base of the motif below the semicircle.

3 Stamp a sentiment onto white card and glue to the bottom of the greeting. Finish with a few raindrop embellishments.

1 Create a white 11.5cm x 13.5cm blank. Trim different coloured cardstock into strips and fix them to the blank diagonally, leaving a slight gap between each one.

2 Die-cut the butterfly from white and glue the centre of the die-cut to the card front, then gently bend the wings up to add dimension.

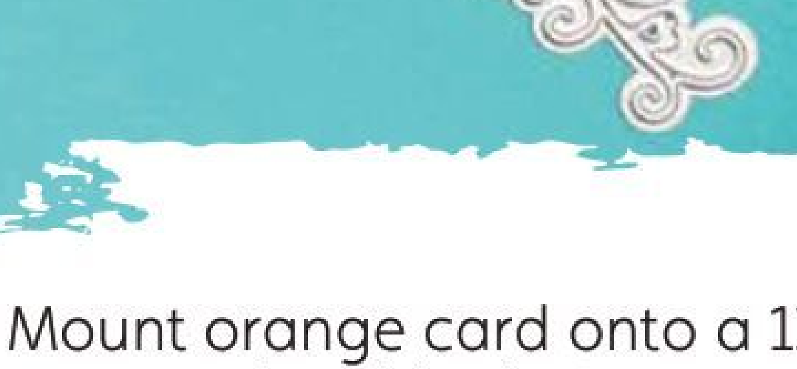
3 Stamp a sentiment onto white, layer onto blue, then fix on top of the butterfly. Add pearls to complete.

HERE'S HOW TO GET IT!

Visit **giftstoyou.com/ butterfly** and enter code **BUTTERFLY** in your shopping basket – it's as easy as that!







1 Mount orange card onto a 13cm x 15cm white blank. Cut a smaller panel from white and die-cut the butterfly from the centre. Fix acetate behind the aperture, add foam tape all around the edges, then sprinkle star sequins on top.

2 Adhere strips of coloured card onto white, then layer onto the foam tape to complete the shaker element. Stamp a sentiment below the aperture. Secure the panel to the card front with foam pads.

3 Die-cut the large butterfly and mini motifs from blue. Fold up the wings and glue the motifs to the greeting to complete.



COLOUR notes

Check out our top arts and crafts picks for May...



Magic Markers

So much more than just a regular marker, these colour changing pens give you the power to colour like no other. Each pen can create light tints to rich tones, eliminating tonal gaps in your collection and making art simple. The colour changing tops do most of the hard work, easily creating multiple shades for you! £15.99, **undertherowantrees.co.uk**





Painting Fun

These silicone painting tools are suitable for use with all media including oil and acrylic paint. They fall between a brush and a palette knife, and are fitted with flexible silicone tips in various shapes and sizes. These will take your painting to new limits and ignite your creativity like never before. £11.41 each, **artsupplies.co.uk**

Cool Clay

Doing pottery at home has never been easier with this kit from Sculpd, which contains everything you need to sculpt, carve, paint and seal your own pinch pots, plant pots, trinket dishes, vases and everything in between! And it gets even better, inside you'll find enough clay for two people to get crafty. £39, **sculpd.co.uk**



STAR BUYS!

Super Sparkle

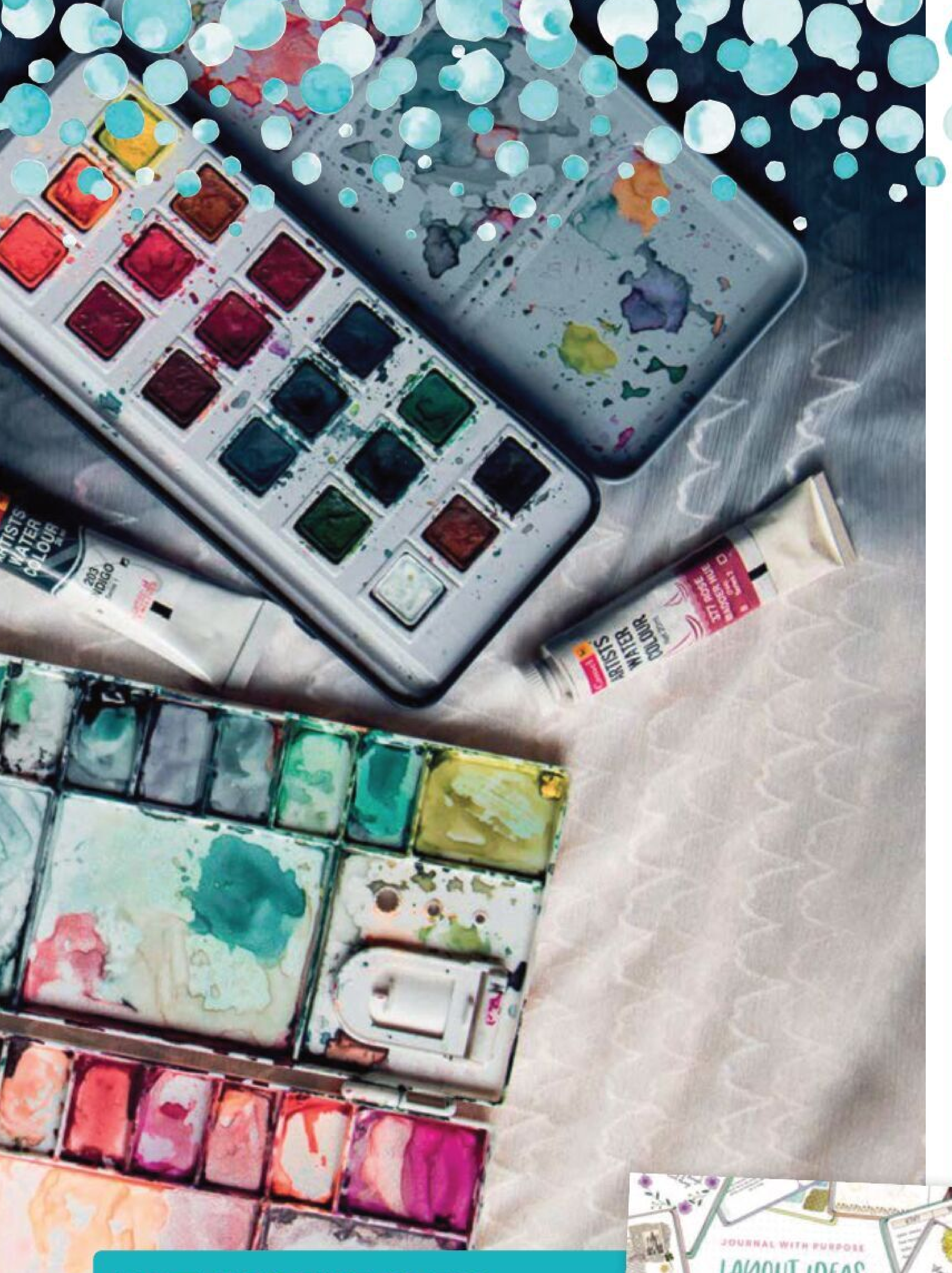
Make every project shine with these Cosmic Shimmer gilding flakes, perfect for embellishing cards, scrapbooks, mixed media and more. You can add shimmering metallic effects to your designs to create unique backgrounds and highlights. £6, **hobbycraft.co.uk**

Delicate Dies

With five dies and three interchangeable sentiments, these Gemini dies have been designed to provide a gorgeous and delicate background ideal for any papercraft! £14.99, **crafterscompanion.co.uk**

Mesmerising Marble

Create beautiful patterns with these marbling inks. In six metallic colours they are not only great quality but easy to use too. Simply drop the ink into a tray of clean water, blow or swirl the ink, lay paper onto the surface and remove. Ta-da – stunning designs in seconds! £12.30, **fredaldous.co.uk**



INTRODUCING... DAPHNEROSA

Named after the founder, Kate's grandmother, DaphneRosa is the home of positive and playful home and paper goods, combining colour and pattern to add a little personality to your abode! Kate is a trained constructed textiles specialist and started out making wedding flowers and bouquets out of fabric. Tactile materials are at the heart of her products, from patterned cotton hanging banners to felt wall art, and most can also be customised with names, dates, quotes or a message. Take a look at Kate's work, and her shop at **daphnerosa.com**



HOT OFF THE PRESS

We've all been there, opened our new journal and been plagued by the fear of the blank page, but this essential reference guide is the answer. *Journal with Purpose: Layout Ideas 101* by journaling expert Helen Colebrook offers readers all her knowledge, tips and tricks to ensure you will get truly bitten by the journaling bug. Including both thoughtful and creative prompts with an endless amount of layout inspiration, this guide will help make journaling bespoke to you while also levelling up your skills. £14.99, **davidandcharles.com**





Sketchbooks

WATERCOLOUR DREAMS

Designed specifically for painting with watercolour, acrylics, gouache and inks, this sketchbook from Pink Pig has covers made from a durable recycled board which will both protect your work and act as a surface to lean on if you're crafting on the go. £8.65, **the-pink-pig.co.uk**



THE ALL-ROUNDER

This spiral-bound sketchbook is a great choice for any art technique. With 30 sheets of textured paper, you can use any mixed media with it, from paints to pencils, meaning you can let your creativity run wild. £10.75, **undertherowantrees.co.uk**

ART MADE EASY

Free your natural talent with this Moleskine sketchbook, which comes complete with a set of 12 watercolour pencils. This bundle contains everything you need to get started with sketching and drawing and will allow you to create a range of beautiful artistic effects. £18.99, **cassart.co.uk**







Simple Stamp Carving

Design your own backgrounds and card focals with a hand-carved stamp!

Stamp carving is a fabulous way to create unique greetings and it's easy to do with a special extra-soft carving surface. You can freehand your design, or draw an image onto copier paper, then place the drawing face-down on the block and scribble on the back with pencil. Simply carve the transferred design with the linocut tools, ink up your image and stamp!



We used...

✳ Matte cardstock: white, kraft ✳ Copier paper ✳ Essdee SoftCut blocks, lino cutters and handle set ✳ Creative Expressions Noble Expressions dies: Thanks, Celebrate ✳ Hunkydory dye ink-pads: Mauve Moment, Camellia Pink, Rainforest Green, Olive Green, Blue Lagoon ✳ Twine ✳ Adhesives: glue, foam pads

Make a Floral Stamp

1 Form a white card blank, 15cm square. Carve a stripe background using the carving guide opposite. Use dark green to stamp your striped background onto the card front.

2 Carve a flower and a leaf outline. Ink the flower with mauve and blue, then stamp onto white card, 10.5cm x 13cm. Mask the flower with copier paper, and print the leaf twice with dark green.

3 Mount the stamped panel onto kraft card and adhere to the greeting. Die-cut the sentiment and add under the flower.

How To: Carve a Stamp



1 Draw your design on copier paper with pencil.



2 Transfer the drawing onto the SoftCut.





Colour **CLEVER**

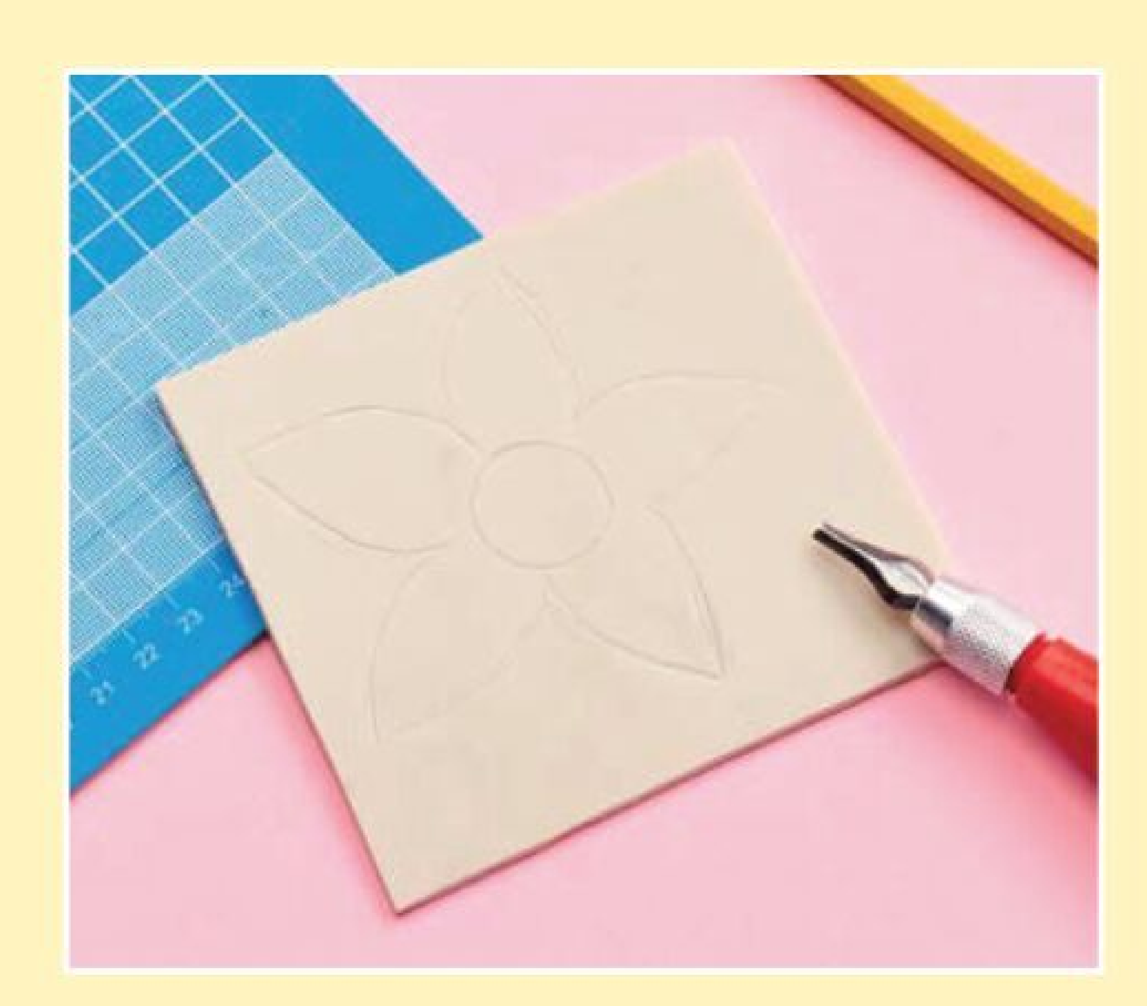
Leave some surface area around the outside edge of your stamp to have something to hold onto while printing

Stamped Backgrounds

1 Form a white card blank, 13.5cm square. Use pink to stamp your carved flower repeatedly onto the card front.

2 Mask the flower with copier paper. Carve a detail leaf design and use light green to stamp on the background.

3 Mount a 1.5cm wide strip of white card onto kraft and glue to the card front. Wrap with twine and tie in a bow, then finish with a die-cut sentiment that's been adhered to some kraft card.



3 Use the #1 Linocut tool to cut around the design.



4 Remove the background with the #2 Linocut tool.

Craft Shop

MAKE THE CUT

This Essdee set with five styles of cutter and a handle is great for those just starting out in stamp carving. £5.25, **essdee.co.uk**

SWEET SENTIMENTS

Finish off your greetings with these Noble Expressions dies, designed by Sue Wilson. £4.50, **creative-expressions.uk.com**



Watercolour Effects

Craft this stylish set with colourful water-soluble inks

Many of us have been putting brush to paper and enjoying some therapeutic watercolour painting, but if you're just starting out, why not try Corinne Bradd's gorgeous abstract project? Using water-soluble inks, she creates vibrant washes with complementary shades which, once dry, can be used to create a mini journal, gift tags and a pretty greeting.

We used...

* 300gsm watercolour or acrylic board * Coloured cardstock * Water-soluble inks * Paintbrushes * Water spray bottle

Watercolour Painting

1 Cover your working area with paper to protect the surface. Place a sheet of heavyweight watercolour or acrylic paper in the centre and spritz with a little water. Brush this over the surface with a wide soft brush, flip the paper over and repeat to prevent too much curling.

2 Choose complementary colours of water-soluble ink and select the palest shade. Dilute with a little water and brush onto the paper with a wide brush, working in the same direction each time. Add more ink in this way, darkening the hue each time to build up a background wash.

3 Spritz with a little more water and apply other shades of ink using a thinner brush, allowing colours to bleed into one another. Let the pigment soak into the paper before blotting away excess water with paper towel.

4 Load a thin brush with undiluted ink – opaque white and metallics work well for this. Hold the loaded brush over the work and tap the end nearest the ink smartly with a finger to 'throw' the ink onto the paper, creating different sized dots.

5 Allow the ink wash painting to dry completely. As the surface dries out sufficiently, place a clean sheet of paper and a heavy book over the top to help keep the paper as flat as possible.

Floral Card

Layer squares of deep coloured cardstock and ink splattered paper onto a square blank and add a vinyl or handwritten calligraphy sentiment across the centre. Cut small flower shapes from scrap pieces of inked paper to decorate the lower corners of the card.

Gift Tags

Using the templates provided on the pattern pages, trace onto the reverse of the work, cut out and punch a hole where indicated. Glue the tag on coordinating cardstock and trim around the edge, leaving a 2mm border all round. Re-punch the hole and tie coloured embroidery thread through it.

Mini Journal

1 Cut several sheets of white paper to A6 or smaller. Fold each in half and stack one inside the other to make a book. Use a ruler and craft knife to trim the leading edge of the pages level. Wrap a larger piece of ink splattered paper around the book leaving at least 2cm extra at the back.

2 Use embroidery thread to bind the book together through two holes pierced through the spine, knotting securely under the cover. Fix a decorative paper fastener to the 2cm overlap and tie a length of thread to this. Bend the overlap over the front of the cover. Wrap the thread around the closed book and secure by winding around the paper fastener.



COLOUR WASH

Spectrum Noir Aquatints are ideal for this project and Crafter's Companion offers a nine-piece bundle for £23. **crafterscompanion.co.uk**



Free template + download crafts-beautiful.com

Check out Corinne's two-part video tutorial, Easy Watercolour Technique Tags at **youtube.com/TheCraftsChannel** to see how it's done

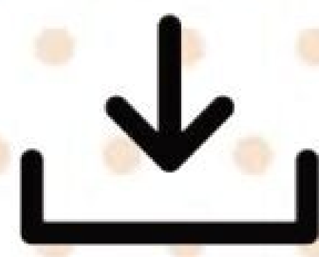


GET STARTED IN 3 EASY STEPS



1 SEARCH

On your desktop computer, visit **youtube.com/TheCraftsChannel**, click the 'Playlists' tab along the top, then select 'Become An Eco-friendly Crafter' to start your course



2 DOWNLOAD

To download your resource pack, search **crafts-beautiful.com**, press 'Free downloads' and select 'Become An Eco-friendly Crafter Download Bundle'



3 CREATE

Gather together your essential craft supplies including your trusty pens, scissors, sewing machine and crochet hooks, then you're ready to go!

BECOME AN ECO-FRIENDLY CRAFTER

TUNE IN AT A TIME THAT SUITS YOU AND MAKE A CHANGE FOR THE BETTER



Crafts is a pretty powerful thing... it does wonders for our mental wellbeing, connects loved ones from afar and can help us in the fight towards a more sustainable future! Handmade is always best in our eyes, especially when it comes to doing our bit to cut down on single-use plastics. Need a new dish cloth? Make your own and reuse it. Run out of make-up remover pads? We show you DIY alternatives that you'll never need to toss again! These are just a couple of projects to master alongside The Crafts Channel demonstrator Corinne Bradd in your Become An Eco-friendly Crafter video course.



"Every little bit helps and this craft course is the best place to start! There's something for all hobbyists hoping to lead a more eco-friendly lifestyle - you might even pick up a new skill whilst you're there"

Corinne Bradd, Crafts Channel Demonstrator

DITCH-THE-DISPOSABLE DOS AND DON'TS

- Most savvy crafters know that any leftover paper or fabric can be used somewhere down the line. Keep a shoebox to throw them into and next time you need a tiny amount, you can avoid cutting into a new piece of material.
- Although it's tempting to buy the most extravagantly wrapped product, it's also incredibly wasteful. Opt for pick and mix papers instead, and don't ignore dog-eared sheets – chances are you'll cut that bit off anyway.
- Try and change the way you craft to avoid all those unnecessary plastics. Backing film from foiling can be layered and used as a 'crackling' insert in the ears of soft toys. Empty embossing powder pots can be decoupaged and filled with coconut oil as a handy lip balm.
- Most charity shops will have a box of craft materials hidden amongst the bric-a-brac and you can pick up items like stamps and punches for a fraction of the price. Part-used reels of thread and skeins of embroidery thread can cost as little as 20p so they're worth stocking up on for future use.

BONUS BUNDLE

As a handy accompaniment to your video course, we've put together a bonus digi craft pack which you can download for free at **crafts-beautiful.com**. Inside, you'll find 13 follow-on projects combining a mix of crafts from crochet to sewing. And as a little extra, we've provided you with printables aplenty, including ready-to-go digi stamps and patterned paper bundles.





STAMPING Special

Blended Ink Effects

Combine stamping and stencilling with this mixed media card

Tantalising textures, shimmering stripes, colour gradients – sounds stunning, no? Well, this is exactly the look expert Ingrid Vichova can help you to create. Using distress oxide inks, iridescent glitter and gloss gel, she shows you how to stencil a beautiful background, topped with stamped flowers and a band of vellum.



We used...

* Distress Oxide ink-pads: Worn Lipstick, Spun Sugar, Wild Honey, Tea Dye, Pumice Stone * Tsukineko VersaFine Onyx Black ink-pad * Altenew Mini Cube ink-pads * Altenew Life is Awesome and Birthday Greetings stamps * Altenew Classy Stripes stencil * Liquitex medium gloss gel * White card * Iridescent fine glitter * White vellum * Adhesives

1 Secure a Classy Stripes stencil over white card, 10.5cm x 15cm, then vertically sponge Wild Honey distress ink to the bottom and Worn Lipstick to the top, creating a gradient by pressing more lightly towards the centre.

2 Apply a mix of gloss gel and iridescent glitter through the stencil onto the inked panel. Stamp and cut out flowers and leaves, then stamp a sentiment in black.

3 Once the stencilled panel is dry, cut it out and wrap a 3.5cm wide strip of vellum around it, securing it to the back. Adhere all the elements on top, then layer the panel onto a 10.5cm x 15cm white blank.



Make Floral Candles

Decorate candles with pressed flowers for cottagecore chic

This pretty set of candles are a beautiful gift for any occasion, plus they're easy to make. Jill Alblas guides you through creating your own plain white or two-tone candles, before decorating them with pressed flowers attached with decoupage glue. Candle making is ideal for setting up a mini production line and making a batch in one go. Meanwhile, it's easy to press your own flowers, or you can just buy ready-made ones to save time!

We used...

* White candle wax * Candle dye: yellow, green * Candle wick * Candle moulds: pillars, ball, cone * Sticky tack or glue dots * Wooden skewer * Heatproof bowls * Saucepan * Pressed flowers * Matt decoupage glue * Decoupage brush * Card: turquoise, white * Glass coaster or plate * Foam pads



Make White Candles

1 Bring a half full saucepan of water to the boil then turn down to a gentle simmer. Tip wax pellets into a heatproof bowl then place on top of the saucepan of simmering water. Don't overfill the bowl – half full is the maximum.

2 Whilst the wax is melting, thread a wick up through a candle mould, securing it at the tip with sticky tack. It's important to seal this well otherwise the molten wax will leak out. Place a skewer across the mould and secure at the edges with sticky tack. Take the wick over the skewer and fix on the outside of the mould with sticky tack or a scrap of tape to keep it taut and central.

3 When the wax has melted, carefully pour it into the mould. Leave for 5-10 minutes then carefully lift into a large bowl. Pour cold water in the bowl up to the level of the wax. You will probably need to place a weight on top of the candle mould to stop it tilting and floating in the water. After about 40 minutes, the wax will have dipped round the wick, so top it up with molten wax. Leave to set for a few hours – the timing depends on the size of the mould. Once the sticky tack has been removed, the candle should slide easily from the mould. If not, just leave it for longer.

4 Spread your pressed flowers on a tray so you can decide which to use. Brush a little decoupage glue onto a candle, place your chosen flower on the glued area and smooth down gently from the centre outwards with a gluey brush. Continue adding more flowers in this way until the candle is decorated to your liking, then leave to dry fully before using.



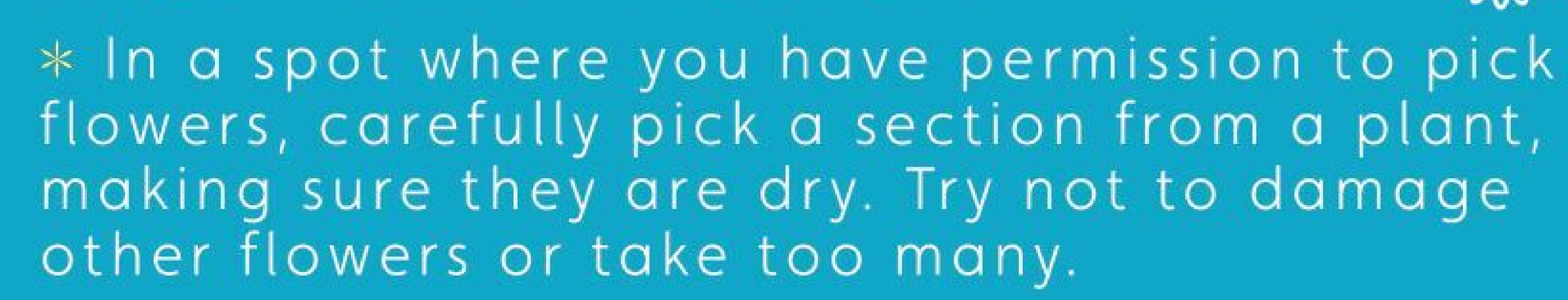
Add Coloured Bases

1 Melt white wax and prepare the candle moulds as before, then pour the molten wax in the moulds but only halfway up. Place in a bowl of cold water as before and leave for about 30 minutes by which time the wax should be opaque but still look a bit spongy round the wick.



2 Whilst the candles are setting, melt more white wax in a separate bowl and add a little dye in the colour of your choice. Stir gently to ensure it is well mixed. Remove the white candles from the water and top up the moulds with coloured wax. Place back in the water and leave to set before topping up the dip as before. Once the candle has fully set, remove from the mould and embellish with pressed flowers.

PRESS YOUR OWN FLOWERS



* In a spot where you have permission to pick flowers, carefully pick a section from a plant, making sure they are dry. Try not to damage other flowers or take too many.
* Place the flowers face down in a telephone book lined with parchment or newspaper.
* Close the book, weigh it down, and leave undisturbed in a warm dry place for seven to 10 days.
* Check on the flowers daily until all the moisture is gone and they go papery, then remove carefully.

Decorate a Candle Stand

Wash and dry a glass coaster or plate thoroughly to remove any dirt and grease. Lay out pressed flowers in the design of your choice. Work on the back of the item and glue on one flower at a time, smoothing down as before then continuing to position the rest of your arrangement.

Create a Mini Card

Apply glue to white card then position some leaves and a flower. When dry, draw a border then trim round the outside and use foam pads to adhere in the centre of a blank.





DESIGNER JILL ALBLAS OFFERS MORE EXPERT ADVICE

* For a quicker make, you can decorate shop bought candles with pressed flowers as described.
* Decoupage glue is perfect for this project. Just brush a thin but even layer to ensure good adhesion.
* Pressed flowers are fragile. Use tweezers or the tip of a craft knife to pick them up and position.
* Decoupage brushes are flat and wide. They're ideal for applying thin, even coats of glue.



Craft With Book Print

Discover how to upcycle old pages into lovely greetings

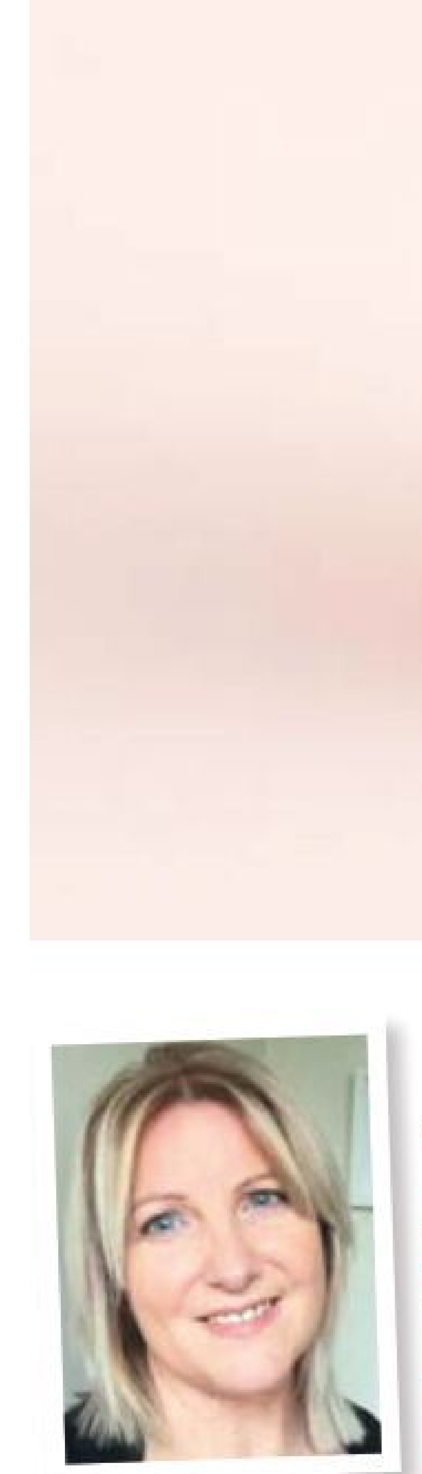


During lockdown you may have seen boxes of free bric-à-brac left outside people's homes after a declutter, including books that have seen better days. Maria Christensen shows how to give them a new lease of life, by removing pages and using them in card projects. Book print is a great way to add interest and can be stamped, die-cut and trimmed in various ways. Here are some ideas to get you started, from a die-cut butterfly design to a stamped greeting.



Craft smart

Different book prints will react individually to stamping ink and colour medium, so experiment first with spare pages



We used...

* Pink Ink Designs Nip and Duck stamp * Butterfly die * Faber-Castell pastel pencils * Book print * Card: kraft, pink * Adhesives: glue, foam tape

Use Your Stamps

1 Stamp your image onto book print then colour with your chosen medium – we used coloured pencils. Using a ruler, tear to desired size and mount onto cardstock.

2 Using a plain sheet from the same book, stamp images to coordinate with the main image, colour and mount onto a card blank. Attach the main image onto the blank using foam tape. Print and add a sentiment.

Decorate With Die-Cuts

1 Die-cut six butterflies from book print, plus another two from pink cardstock. Glue the book print butterflies together at the body, leaving the wings free.

2 Stick the print butterfly to the middle of a piece of kraft card at the body and add a coloured butterfly above and below, again just at the body. Curl the wings away from the card once dry. Matt and layer onto matching cardstock, then attach to a kraft card blank.

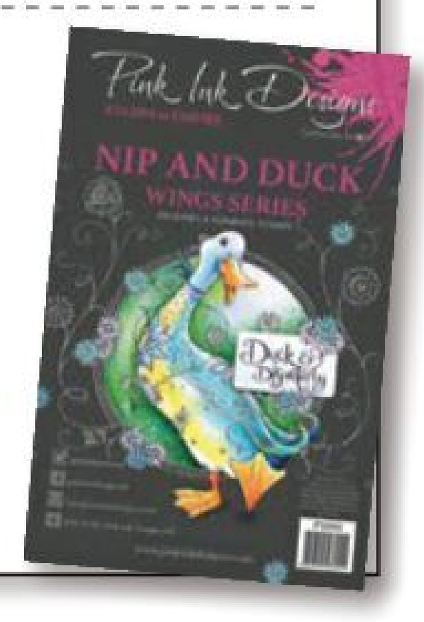
> "Mixed media is all about layers and texture, so have fun playing around with different ideas and mediums"
>
> MARIA CHRISTENSEN, CB DESIGNER

Craft Shop



FLUTTER BY

Try this Hunkydory Moonstone Layering Butterfly die set to make your cards. £14.99, **hunkydorycrafts.co.uk**



DUCK TALES

We love this fun Nip and Duck stamp from Pink Ink Designs! £17.95, **pinkinkdesigns.co.uk**

LEARN SOMETHING NEW!

BOOST YOUR Craft Skills

COLETTE SMITH

Get creative with washi tape to make Colette Smith's fun balloon greeting

We Used...

* MT Masking Tape washi tapes: plain blue, lime stripe, bright pink dotty
* Lawn Fawn Lawn Cuts Party Balloons dies
* Little Things from Lucy's Cards Dewdrops
* Cardstock: white, blue, lime, bright pink
* Grey woodgrain patterned paper
* Sentiment stamp
* Black ink-pad
* Adhesives: glue, foam tape

Tip

After applying the washi to your card, use a bone folder to flatten the surface and get rid of any wrinkles. This will also help to hide the joins.

HOW TO Die-Cut Washi Tape







1 Cover card, 7cm square, with lime striped washi tape, lining up the pattern. Repeat with plain blue and bright pink dotty tapes.

2 Die-cut a large round balloon from the lime piece, a heart from the pink dotty piece and a star from the blue piece.

3 Die-cut three strings in coordinating card and three reflections in white card. Assemble the balloons as shown.

4 Cover a blank, 10.5cm x 13.5cm with grey woodgrain paper. Add balloons with foam tape, a stamped sentiment and dewdrops.

NEXT LEVEL

Decoupage with Stamps

Get more out of your stamping with Kitty Day's clever 3D techniques!

The art of 3D decoupage usually involves layering multiple die-cut images, but you can achieve the same effect with stamps! Add as many layers as you like and build up with foam pads for depth.

We used...

* Make It Colour blending cardstock
* Coloured card: mint, silver glitter
* My Favorite Things Let's Curl Up, Mice Day To Celebrate and Balloon Besties stamps
* Lawn Fawn Stitched Hillside Borders dies
* My Favorite Things, Stitched Cloud Edges dies
* Distress Oxide ink-pads: Kitsch Flamingo, Twisted Citron, Mermaid Lagoon, Mowed Lawn, Shaded Lilac
* Memento Tuxedo Black ink-pad
* White Posca paint pen
* Alcohol markers
* Gems and pearls
* Adhesives: glue, foam pads



Fix In Place

If you prefer, use silicone glue to attach the layers

Blend Ink Backgrounds

Create an ink-blended turquoise background, then add some die-cut clouds to the bottom plus a strip of patterned paper. Stamp and colour the images, then cut out the layers. Assemble the pieces together as described in the step shots opposite, and attach them onto the panel. Add a layered stamped sentiment, plus some gems around the images.

Die-Cut Scenes

Blend a lilac background with inks. Sponge green inks onto die-cut stitched hills and glue on the lilac panel. Stamp and colour the fox images and cut out the layers. Assemble with foam pads and add foliage and toadstools. Finish with a sentiment and some clear pearls.

LEARN SOMETHING NEW!

STAMPING Special

No Blending Inks?

Use coloured card or patterned paper

NEXT MONTH...

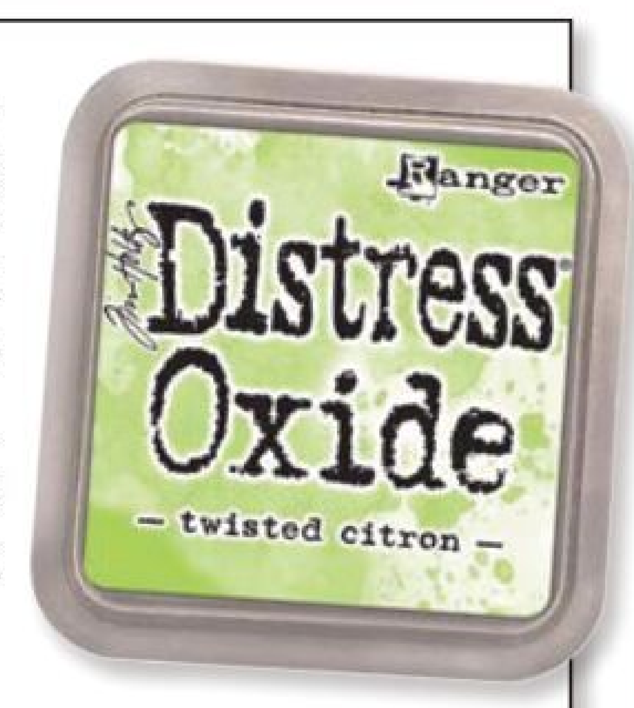
Kitty shows us how to master watercolour backgrounds

Craft Shop



STAMP COLLECTION
Find a wide selection of My Favorite Things stamps and dies at **diestodiefor.com**

THINK INK
Stock up on Distress Oxide ink-pads, £5.49, **craftydevils papercraft.co.uk**





1 Stamp out the following onto white stamping card; three mice with balloons, three mice with candles, three cupcakes, four banners and two boxes.



2 Cut out each of the images into layers, then colour in with alcohol markers. Add spots to the banners with a white pen to create highlights.



3 Assemble each image together with foam pads starting with the largest piece, and finishing with the smallest piece on top.



4 Create a blended background with ink, add a stamped sentiment and assemble the card as shown.

ASK THE EXPERTS

Got a crafty problem? Find the answers you need right here!



I'd like to make greetings in different shapes, is there an easy way?

Stephanie says... A quick and easy way to batch make cards is using an electronic die-cutting machine. Combine this with our Tattered Lace Cardshapes USB which is packed with hundreds of card designs and you can cut any number of professional greetings!

Can you show me how to layer up my stamped images?

Kitty says... The stamped decoupage technique is really simple to pick up and yields some fantastic results. Using my stamps, I cut out, colour and layer the motifs to whip up a standout greeting. You don't have to create decoupage using just three layers. Opt for as many as you need to provide the dimension you're after. Start by looking at the stamped image you're using and work out each piece that you wish to add layers to. It's easiest to work with the largest full stamped image, then add layers in order up to the smallest piece.



What are water reactive ink-pads and how do I use them?

Stephanie says... Water reactive ink-pads are ideal for blending colour and using as colouring mediums. They tend to dry slowly and can be reworked quite easily with a little water, making them perfect for painting as well as stamping and layering up colours.

What's the best way to create blended ink backgrounds?

Claire says... Ranger Distress Oxide Inks are a lot easier to blend with a sponge or brush tool than Distress Inks and you can layer up the colours without them bleeding into one another. As the name suggests, the ink will oxidise when water is applied and the colour will be a lot more intense than the Distress Inks – these are more transparent in nature so I'll often combine both on my backgrounds for a more subtle effect.



LEARN SOMETHING NEW!

MEET OUR EXPERTS

RESIDENT EXPERT



STEPHANIE WEIGHTMAN

Learn more from the creator of brand favourite, **Tattered Lace**



KITTY DAY

CB regular Kitty shares her card making secrets



CLAIRE RICHARDS

Designer Claire offers her expertise in stamping and die-cutting

How can I use my markers to bring stamped characters to life?

Kitty says... When making cards, I often use alcohol markers to shade in areas of an image stamped in black ink. Build up each colour gradually and apply darker hues towards the outer edges of the motifs for seamless shading effects. I also recommend pairing Memento ink with alcohol pens so that the colours don't smudge and bleed into each other. I then cut out the motifs and fix them onto the greeting, either directly or with foam pads to add a 3D effect.



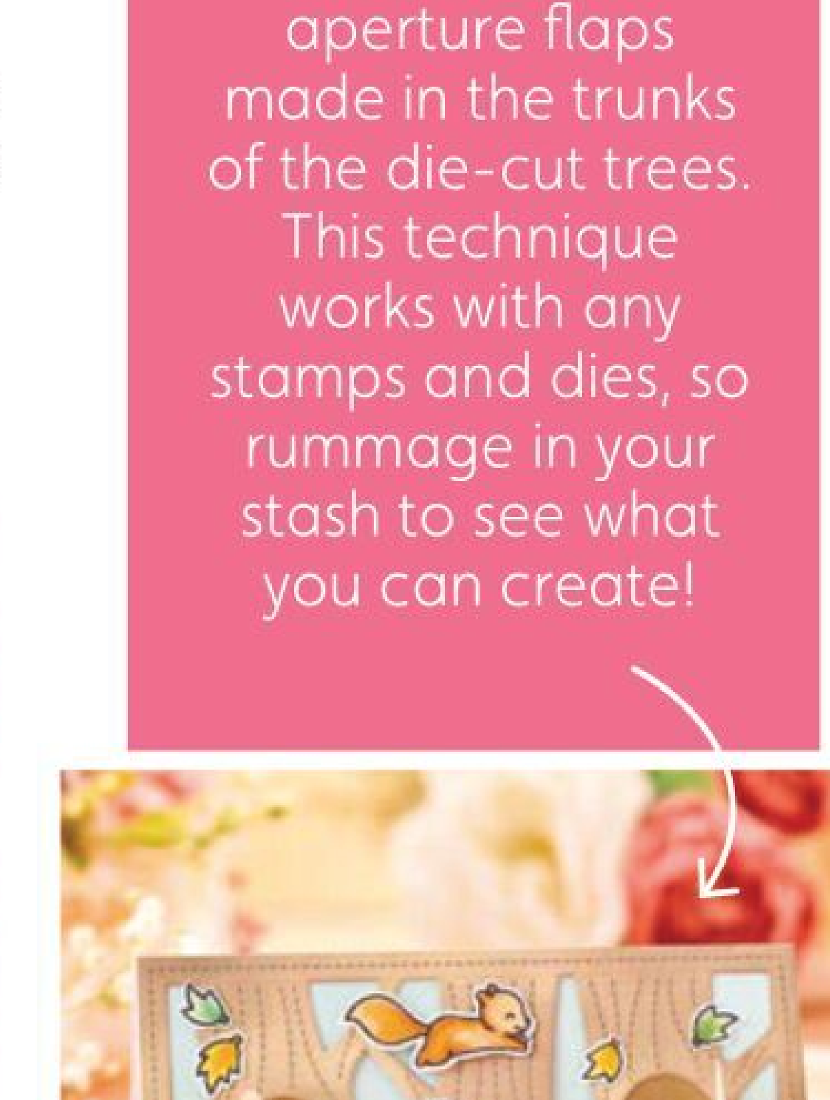



I've got a set of stamps – how can I use all the designs in one project?

Claire says... Building up stamped motifs is a great way to achieve custom backgrounds for your cards. Not only does it replicate patterned backing papers, but you can tailor the look and colours to your liking. I'll often use a mix of stamps based around the same theme and different ink colours, starting with the largest motifs first and filling in any gaps with smaller stamps.

Can you suggest new ways to use a matching stamp and die set?

Claire says... How about a secret window card? It's a greeting with flaps that reveals an additional image within an aperture. For this card I used a woodland set, creating squirrels that I could hide behind round aperture flaps made in the trunks of the die-cut trees. This technique works with any stamps and dies, so rummage in your stash to see what you can create!



Have you got any ways to make sentiments stand out?

Kitty says... Making sentiments the centre of attention on your cards is a great way to reinforce the special message and the reason behind sending your greeting in the first place. Not only can bold and layered die-cuts work some magic, frames are also a great way of directing the focus on your cards. If you don't have any frame dies in your crafty arsenal, they're simple to make using two sizes of regular shapes. For subtle interest and texture whilst still ensuring your sentiments remain the star of the show, I like to incorporate a combination of embossed background panels.





I'm new to card making, where can I find ideas to get me started?

Stephanie says... I would definitely recommend our Tattered Lace Recap videos, they're just a fabulous source of information when you need a helping hand. Videos are brilliant for card making instruction because they cover aspects that are sometimes so hard to capture in writing or photographs, and seeing a project being made in motion is often exactly what you need. Head over to the Tattered Lace YouTube channel to see them.

The Stitching edit

Check out our top patterned picks for this month...



FABULOUS FACES

If you love quirky prints, look no further than this fun design in comfy cotton. Inspired by the work of Picasso, it's a simple yet elegant linework style with an array of faces, offset with minimal features like lips and eyes in colour. It's ideal for dressmaking as well as home accessories. £15 per metre, **mysewingbox.co.uk**

HOME COMFORTS

A different take on stripes, this irregularly-striped throw also has interesting texture created by one single reversed stitch. The chunky yarn adds a lovely weight to it and makes for a comforting, stylish addition to your sofa. The best part though? This pattern is completely free and comes complete with video tutorials too! **stitchandstory.com**



CRAFTY STORAGE

Tins are an excellent storage solution for your craft space, and are ideal for all those handy to use, but easy to lose items such as buttons and pins. With a gorgeous sewing-themed print, instantly recognisable as an Emma Bridgewater style design, this would also make a perfect gift for any sewing enthusiast in your life! £3.50, **emmabridgewater.co.uk**

PASTEL POP

Add a pop of colour to your projects with this gorgeous pastel thread set, with a mix of 10 shades that make us feel like summer is firmly on the way. These high-quality threads are excellent for all your stitching needs, and will be a dream to use with your sewing machine. £14.99, **johnlewis.com**





WARDROBE OF DREAMS

Create a coherent capsule wardrobe and learn how to make your own stylish Scandanvian outfits for a timeless collection of garments. Using five essential building blocks, you can customise and adapt the 20 designs in *Building the Pattern* by Saara and Laura Huhta to suit your style and fit your figure. £26, **hardiegrant.com/quadrille**

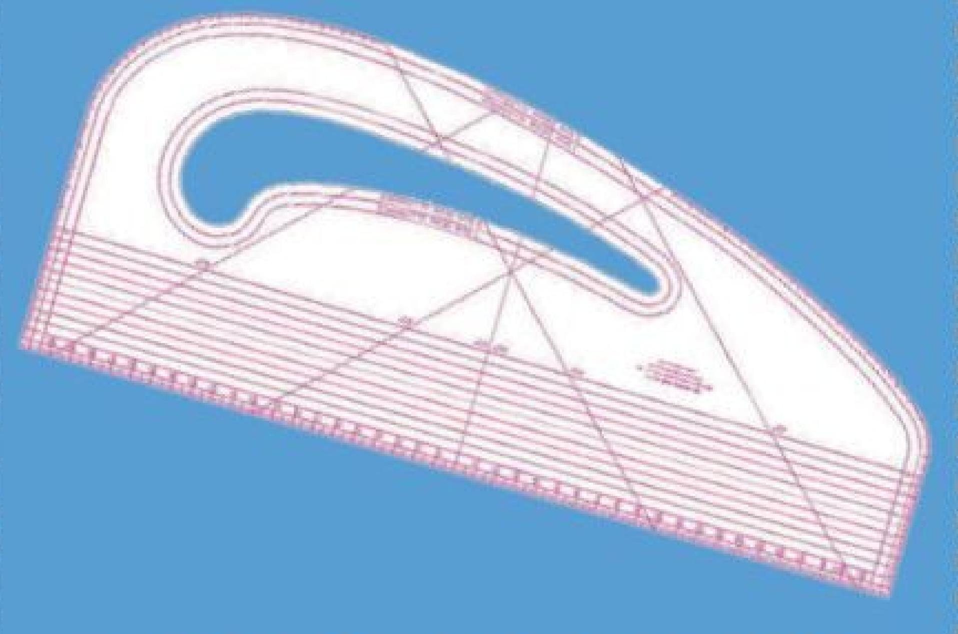




POLKA DOT PRETTY

Keep your sewing essentials neat in one place with this large polka-dot print box. Featuring enough space for your threads, scissors and more, this box includes a removable, sectioned plastic tray for easy organisation and space optimisation. An ideal gift for any budding seamstress or tailor. £22.99, **therange.co.uk**

Pick of the Kit: Must-Have Pattern Tools



DRESSMAKING MASTER

Great for flat pattern alterations and achieving a right angle, a pattern master is an essential for anyone wanting to work on their dressmaking skills. This invaluable tool can be used to help make bias binding, finish patterns off and create curves for armholes and necklines. £30, **sewoverit.co.uk**



CLEAN TRANSFERS

This tracing wheel with blunt edges is ideal for transferring markings onto your fabrics without damaging the materials themselves as the blunt edges will mark the line without tearing through. This handy tool makes tracing a pattern easy, quick and accurate. £8, **hobbycraft.co.uk**



HOLE IN ONE

Great for anyone who makes their own patterns, this paper pattern notcher makes 7mm deep rectangular cuts on the edge of pattern papers allowing for matching fabric pieces during garment construction. An easy-to-use and helpful tool that should be in your collection! £12, **sewessential.co.uk**

Stitch a Book Bag

Carry your latest read (and glasses!) in style



This gorgeous printed bag should fit a standard paperback book, but don't worry as we show you how to tailor the measurements to fit any type of book you wish to cover. This would be a perfect holiday make, as you can easily carry your book and glasses from the beach to the pool, or an excellent gift for the book worm in your life!

We used...

✳ Sewing machine ✳ Fabric: printed, plain ✳ Curtain interlining ✳ 3mm matching ribbon ✳ Matching thread ✳ Carabiner ✳ Beads

Cutting Guide:
The book used for this project is 13cm x 19.5cm. To calculate the rectangle of fabric needed for your book size, add the front and back cover measurements together plus the spine, then add an extra 3cm for ease and another 2cm for seam allowance. This measurement becomes the circumference of the bag. To calculate the width, add the height of the book plus 3cm ease and 2cm for seam allowance.

Book Bag

1 Once you've decided the size of the bag, cut a rectangle from the printed fabric, interlining and plain fabric that will be used as the lining. For the inside sleeves, cut two strips of printed fabric and two of the lining, measuring 9cm wide and the width of the bag. The straps are made from two strips of printed fabric, two of the lining and two of the interfacing, measuring 5cm x 33cm.

2 To make the handles, layer the fabrics in the following order: interfacing, printed fabric face up, lining face down. Pin them together, then stitch the layers together along each long edge with a 1cm seam allowance. Trim the interlining seam allowance away as far as the stitching line. Turn the strips to the right side through one of the open ends. Tease out the seams, press flat and then edge stitch along each long edge.

3 To make the inside sleeve strips, lay a printed fabric strip face down onto the lining, then stitch the two together along one of the long edges. Open out the strips and fold the lining back behind before pressing flat. Repeat on the remaining two strips.

4 Lay the printed rectangle face up on top of the interlining and pin together, then position the handles at either end of the rectangle on the shorter edges. The right side of the handles should face the right side of the printed rectangle. Bend the handles and match the raw ends to the raw edge of the rectangle. Centre the handle, leaving 6cm between the two ends, then loop a short length of ribbon through the carabiner and position this between the rectangle and the end of one of the handles.

5 Edge stitch the ends of the handles in place and repeat with the remaining handle on the opposite side of the rectangle. The loop and the carabiner will be sandwiched into one of these seams. Lay the inside sleeves at either end of the rectangle with the right sides of the printed fabric facing and match all the raw edges together, with the handles sandwiched in between, and pin in place. Find the centre of one of the long edges of the rectangle and pin a 28cm length of ribbon to it.

6 Lay the remaining lining rectangle on top, matching all the edges together. Stitch through all the layers with a 1cm seam allowance leaving a gap of approximately 5cm in the stitching line in one of the long edges. Trim the bulk from the corners and the seam allowance of the interlining, then turn to the right side through the gap. Tease out the seams and corners and press flat. Pin the gap closed, then edge stitch all the way around the edge of the rectangle, which will close the gap in the process. Thread a few beads onto the end of the ribbon and secure with a knot, this will be the bookmark.



Stitch smart

Try making a case for your mobile phone and clip it onto the bag

"The interlining gives the bag structure and will protect the book but if you are using a heavy weight fabric you could leave out this layer."

AMANDA WALKER, CB DESIGNER

Glasses Case

1 Cut two rectangles, one in the printed fabric and one in the lining, measuring 17cm x 18.5cm. Lay the lining rectangle on top of the right side of the printed fabric and stitch the two together along one of the shorter edges. Open out the pieces and press the seam open. Cut a short length of ribbon and bend it into a loop. Position the loop on the printed fabric side to one end of the seam and pin in place.

2 Fold the pieces in half, matching the edges of the lining and the printed fabric together. Pin and stitch them together across the base, up the printed fabric and into the lining, then across the remaining edge. Leave a gap in the stitching line within the lining edges. Trim the bulk from the corners, then turn the case to the right side through the gap.

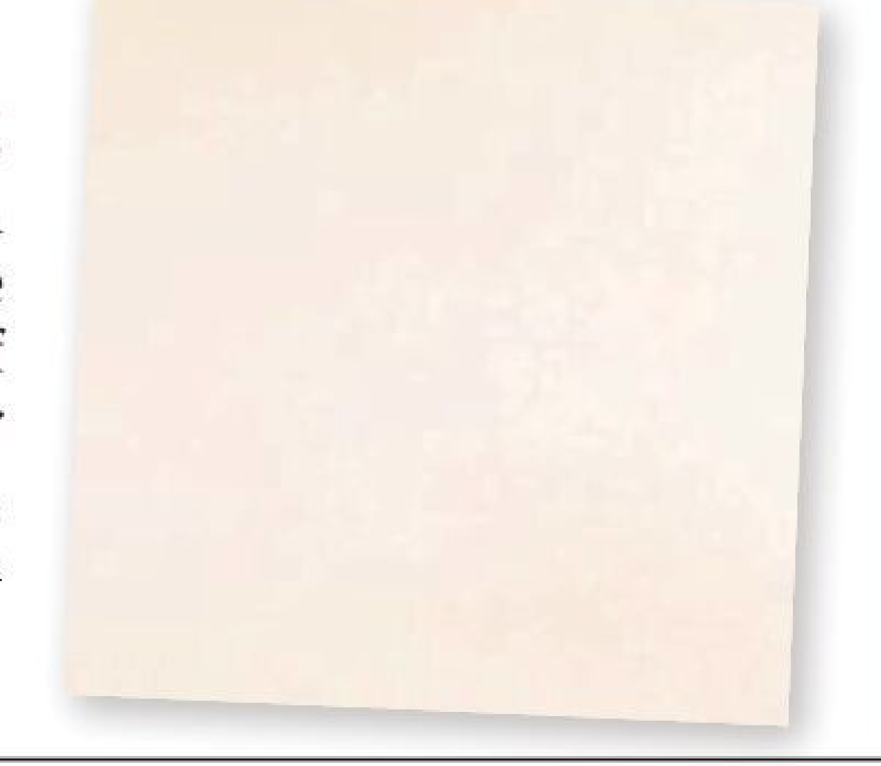
3 Pin the edges of the gap together and edge stitch the gap closed. Push the lining inside the printed case, tease out the corners and seams before pressing flat. The loop of the ribbon can now be clipped onto the carabiner.

Craft Shop



BRIGHT BIRDS
Recreate your book bag with this gorgeous Scion fabric featuring contemporary flying birds. £32 per metre, **sandersondesigngroup.com**

SOFT LININGS
This cotton curtain interlining would be perfect for the inside of your bag to keep your book protected. £6.50, **dunelm.com**



Try Floral Appliqué

Say it with flowers in this bright and cheery stitched project

This lovely gift set, adorned with bold blooms in bright yellow and blue, has got us in the mood for summer here at CB HQ! Sophia Palmer has used a mix of free motion appliqué and simple sewing to create a floral embroidery hoop that's perfect for hanging on the wall. Why not stitch the matching greeting and bag charm as well and create a gift set that will put a smile on anyone's face.

We used...

* Cotton fabric: yellow striped, yellow polka dot * Felt: blue, light green, dark green * Gutermann machine thread * Fusible web * Firm weight iron-on interfacing * Yellow ribbon * 4" embroidery hoop * Blank card * Bag hook

All seam allowances are 10mm unless specified.

Buy the kit...

Plastic non-slip embroidery hoop, **lovecrafts.com**

Stitch a Flower Hoop

1 Cut a 15.5cm circle from iron-on interfacing, press this onto the back of yellow striped fabric and cut out. Use the templates provided on the pattern pages to trace each part of the flower onto fusible web. Loosely cut out and iron onto the back of felt, plus yellow polka dot fabric for the flower centre. Once happy, cut all these pieces out neatly.

2 Peel off the backing paper from each piece and carefully position each one on the circle. Only the centre will be on show, so use the hoop as a reference for placement. Play with the design until you are happy, then iron in place.

3 Using free motion embroidery, sew over the edges of each piece, going over them a couple of times if you want a bolder line. Add the wording in the same way. Place the fabric circle in the embroidery hoop and tighten.

4 Work a huge running stitch around the outer edge of the fabric circle, then pull the ends to gather the fabric up so it neatly pulls to the back. Knot both ends together to secure. Cut a length of ribbon and tie to the top for hanging.



"Don't forget to put your feeders down for the free motion embroidery, and put them back up to sew the rest normally"

SOPHIA PALMER, CB DESIGNER



Make a Bag Charm

1 Trace the large flower template on fusible web and cut out loosely. Iron onto the back of blue felt and trim neatly. Repeat with the leaves on green felt, and the flower centre onto yellow polka dot fabric.

2 Arrange the components on top of a larger piece of felt. Cut a small loop of ribbon and add it to the top of the flower, then iron everything down to secure. Free motion embroider around each shape with contrasting thread, securing the ribbon in place.

3 Carefully trim around the flower shape from the larger piece, being careful not to cut through the ribbon loop. Attach a bag hook to complete.

Buy the fabric...

Fat quarters and fastenings, **hobbycraft.co.uk**

Sew a Floral Card

1 Draw around a blank card onto iron-on interfacing to create a template for the front. Iron this onto the back of your chosen fabric. Trim the edges to the desired size with scissors or pinking shears.

2 Trace the flower, stem and leaves templates onto fusible web and cut out loosely. Iron to the back of felt, plus yellow polka dot fabric for the flower centre and trim neatly. Peel off the backing paper and iron in place onto the fabric panel. Use your sewing machine to free motion embroider the pieces in place with contrasting thread.

3 Sew the panel to the front of the card around the edge. If the greeting doesn't stand up, fix a piece of card inside to hide the stitches and provide stability. Trim any excess with a craft knife.

Buy the fabric...

Vlieseline Interfacing and Bondaweb, **ladysewandsew.co.uk**

Crochet Bag

Get set for summer with this easy-make carrier



Craft smart
Line the bag with cotton fabric to help maintain its shape

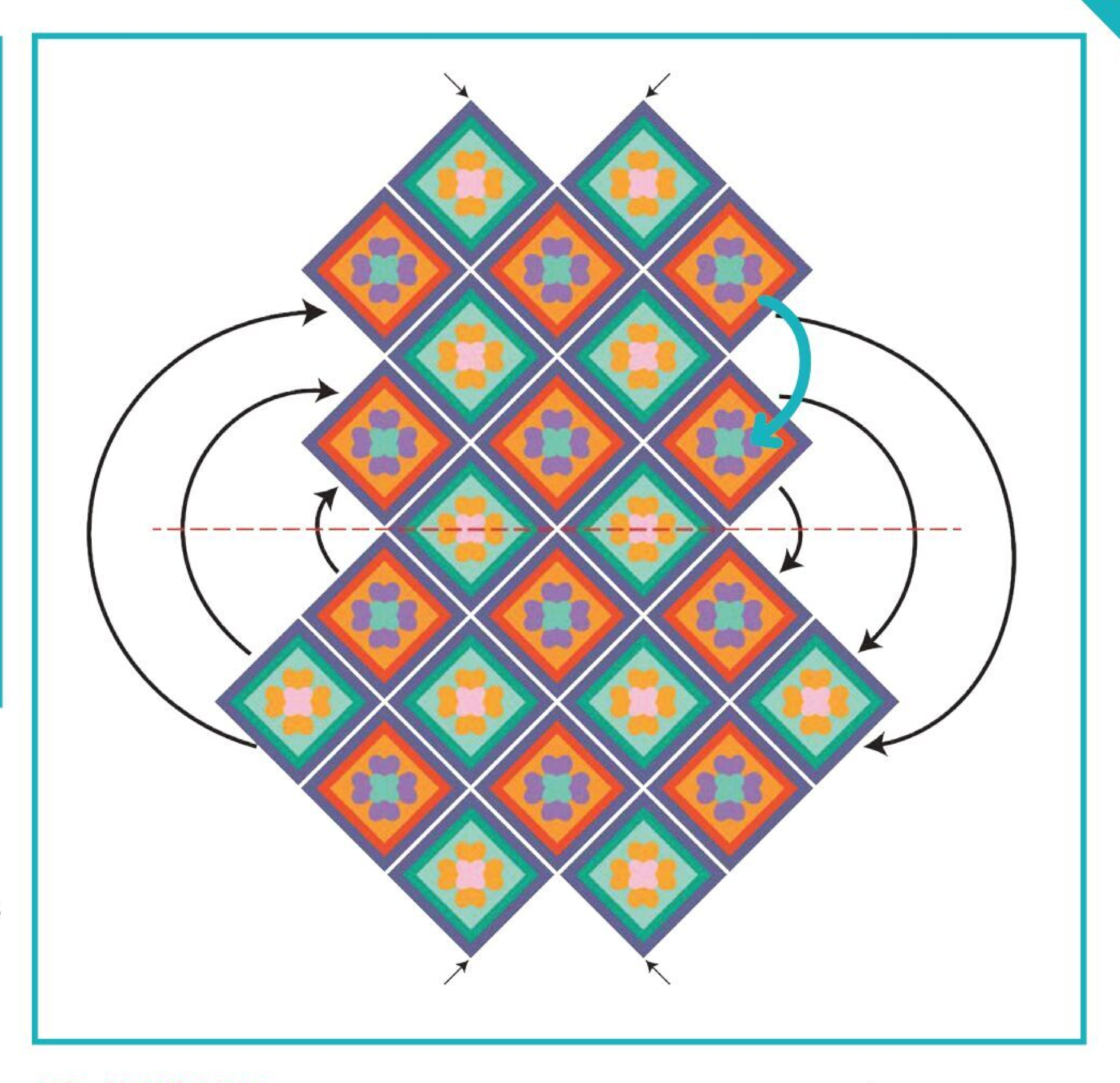
Never picked up a crochet hook? No problem! Every crafter knows that the beginning of your crochet journey starts with the humble granny square. Once you learn that, you can master anything, and that's exactly what this gorgeous bag is made from. If you're not sure how to get started, we're here to help. Head to **topcrochetpatterns.com** and search 'granny square' to find videos that you can follow along as you go.

We used...

* Scheepjes Cahlista Aran Cotton yarn: (A) Deep Amethyst 508 [two balls], Shocking Pink 114, Tyrian Purple 128, Royal Orange 189, Yellow Gold 208, Lemonade 403, Lime Juice 392, Crystalline 385, Bluebell 173, Cyan 397, Jade 514, Light Orchid 226, Apple Granny 513 * 4mm crochet hook * Tapestry needle * Four stitch markers

Size:
44cm wide x 36cm deep
51cm deep with handles

Tension:
Rnd 1 measures 3cm diameter using a 4mm hook



GRANNY SQUARE

Make 24

Using any colour, make a magic ring

Rnd 1 (RS): 5ch (counts as 1tr and 2ch throughout), [3tr, ch2] three times into ring, 2tr into ring, sl st in third ch of beg 5ch to join. (Four 3tr groups and four 2ch sps)

Fasten off first colour

Rnd 2: Join second colour in any 2ch sp, 5ch, 3tr in same sp, [(3tr, 2ch, 3tr) in next 2ch sp] three times, 2tr in same sp as beg 5ch, sl st in third ch of beg 5ch to join. (Eight 3tr groups and four 2ch sps)

Fasten off second colour

Rnd 3: Join third colour in any 2ch sp, 5ch, 3tr in same sp, *3tr in sp between 3tr groups, (3tr, 2ch, 3tr) in next 2ch corner sp, rep from * twice more, 3tr in sp between 3tr groups in next 1ch sp, 2tr in same sp as beg 5ch, sl st in third ch of beg 5ch to join. (Twelve 3tr groups and four 2ch sps)

Fasten off third colour

Rnd 4: Join fourth colour in any 2ch sp, 4ch (counts as 1htr and 2ch), 2htr in same sp, *1htr in each of next nine sts, (2htr, 2ch, 2htr) in next 2ch corner sp, rep from * twice more, *1htr in each of next nine sts, (2htr, 2ch, 1htr) in same sp as beg 4ch, sl st in second ch of beg 4ch to join. (52 htr and four 2ch sps)

Fasten off fourth colour

Rnd 5: Join Yarn A in any 2ch sp, 3ch (counts as 1dc and 2ch throughout), 1dc in same sp, *1dc in each of next 13 sts, (1dc, ch2, 1dc) in next 2ch corner sp, rep from * twice, 1dc in each of next 13 sts, 1dc in same sp as beg 3ch, 2ch, sl st in first ch of beg 3ch to join. (60 dc + four 2ch sps)

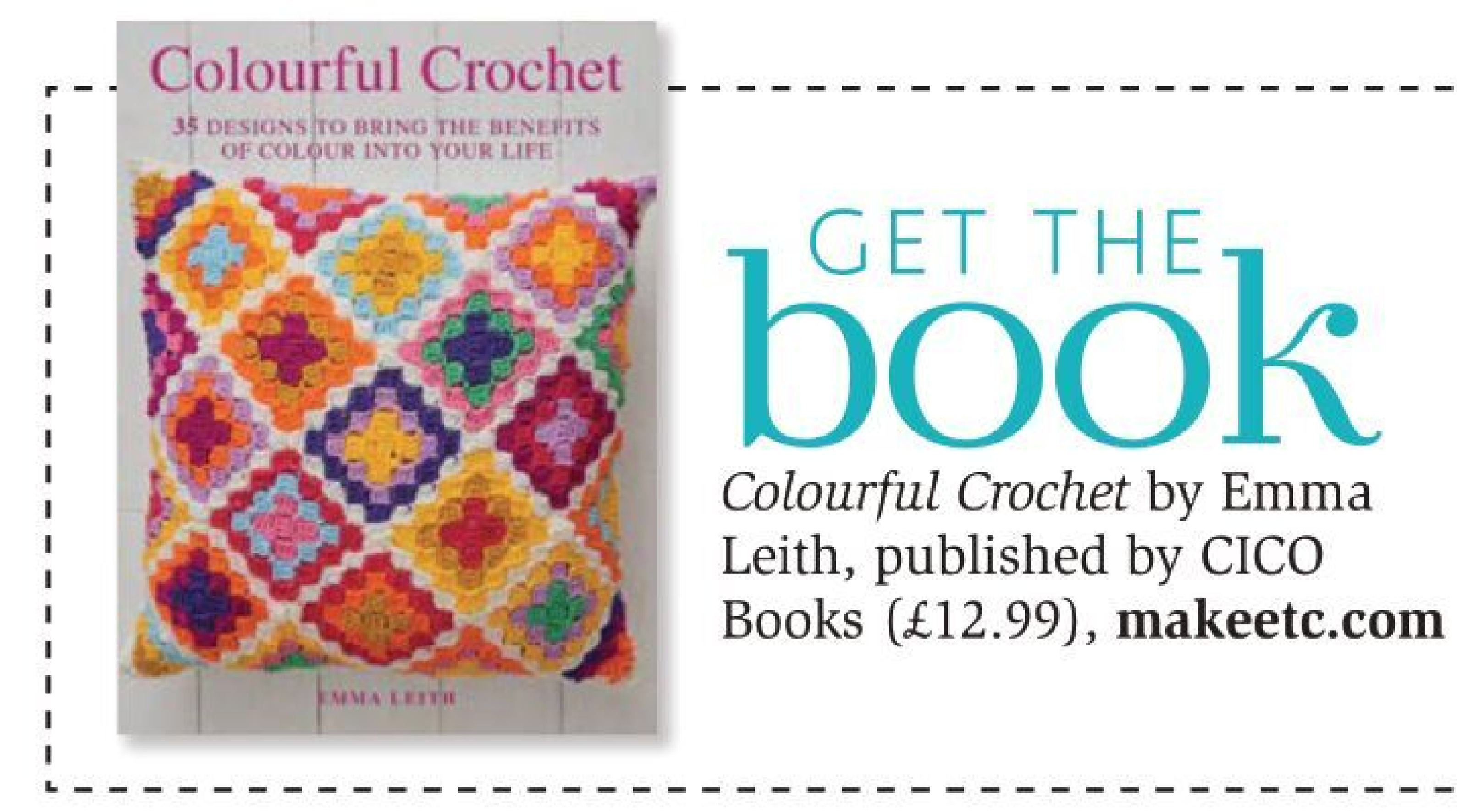
Fasten off Yarn A

TO MAKE UP

Lay all 24 squares in any sequence you choose following the diagram for placement. Thread Yarn A in a tapestry needle and join the squares by holding two squares RS tog and sewing through front loops only of Rnd 5 stitches on both squares. Once all squares are joined, add a stitch marker in the 2ch corner sp of each of the two squares at either end (these are where the handles will be). Fold bag over with RS tog matching the seams as noted on the diagram. Using Yarn A, sew seams. Turn the bag RS out.

HANDLES

With RS facing, join Yarn A in marked 2ch corner sp of first top square on right of one side, 3ch (counts as 1dc and 2ch), 1dc in same sp, *1dc in each of next 15 sts, move to next square, 1dc in each of next 15 sts to next 2ch corner sp, (1dc, 2ch, 1dc) in 2ch corner sp, rep from * twice more, 1dc in each of next 15 sts, move to next square, 1dc in each of next 15 sts to beg 2ch corner sp, sl st in first ch of beg 3ch to join. Join in a second colour and hold together with Yarn A as you cont: 50ch (or more if you want a longer handle), 1dc in 2ch corner sp of next top square, 1ch, turn, 1dc in same sp, 1dc in each ch working back to beg, 1dc in beg 2ch sp, fasten off. Rejoin yarn in 2ch corner sp of top right square on opp side and rep as for first handle.



GET THE book

Colourful Crochet by Emma Leith, published by CICO Books (£12.99), **makeetc.com**

Brands To Love

We have selected a range of new products from our most loved brands. These products are an absolute must-have.



Spring Colour Palette – April Showers

Add glorious fresh colour to your resin jewellery and artwork with **Resin8**'s Spring Colour Palette – April Showers. Vibrant pigments and ethically-sourced mica powders inspired by this wonderfully optimistic season. Use code CRAFTYSPRING for 10% off your whole order!
resin8.co.uk



Essdee MasterCut Stamp Carving Kit

Carve, ink and print your own stamp designs with this easy and fun all-in-one kit. Includes six assorted stamps, a stamping tool, two Lino cutters, a handle and an ink pad.
essdee.co.uk



Add Wow! to your DIY projects

Everyone loves a bit of sparkle. Check out these fabulous project ideas using a variety of products from **Wow!** Embossing.
wowembossingpowder.co.uk



Florist Crepe Paper

With high elasticity (250%) and its heavyweight (160gsm) **Clairefontaine's** Florist Crepe Paper is perfectly pliable, offering volume and texture to create natural and realistic paper flowers. Available from all good online and high street art and craft retailers.
clairefontaine.com/en

Van Gogh Mixed Media Journal

This Journal is available in A4 and A5, with 160 gsm and 50 pages. The hard cover protects your works and the ring binder makes it possible to work on the following page with a "lay-flat" design. Every page is micro-perforated to allow for easy removal from the journal. The mixed media paper is acid-free, pH-neutral and buffered to guarantee optimum durability of the paper. With its gram weight of 160 g/m², the paper can be used for different techniques such as water colour, gouache, acrylic, ink, charcoal and pencil. **royaltalens.com**





Doodlebug Design Fairy Garden - Odds & Ends

This beautiful new collection is now available from Papermaze. Add magic to your creations and purchase yours today!
papermaze.co.uk



Herbin®

Highly commended within both the 'Best Lettering and Colouring Product' and 'Craft Product of the Year' categories at the Best of Craft Awards 2020, **Herbin®** refillable brush pens are ideal for crafters who love those who enjoy partaking in creative lettering and drawing. Available from all good online and high street art and craft retailers. **herbin.co.uk** or **clairefontaine.com/en**

Beautiful Borders of Lace Collection

From the award-winning **Tattered Lace**, give your crafts the professional edge with the Tattered Lace Beautiful Borders of Lace Collection.
crafting.co.uk



Cross-Stitch a Wall Hanging

Celebrate the bees in this colourful piece of textile art



Free template + download crafts-beautiful.com

Bees are some of nature's hardest workers and play a huge role in the life cycle by pollinating plants, essential for our food. Contemporary cross-stitch designer and author Emma Congdon, aka Stitchrovia, has created this lovely floral piece which also urges us to help our stripy friends by providing more wildflowers in our gardens. Just follow her simple steps to create this striking piece of wall art!

We used...

* DMC stranded cotton: 164 Pistachio Green, 472 Bud Green, 598 Lagoon Turquoise, 680 Dark Old Gold, 726 Mimosa Yellow, 743 Medium Yellow, 809 Gentle Blue, 920 Ochre Copper, 922 Terracotta, 988 Forest Green, 989 Fennel Green, 3345 Dark Hunter Green, 3371 Ebony, 3854 Spiced Gold * Cream 14 count Aida or 28 count linen, 35.5cm x 43cm * Embroidery hoop

Stitch count: 84 x 123
Stitched size: 15cm x 22.5cm

1 Take a square of Aida, at least 35.5cm x 43cm. Place between the two layers of an embroidery hoop and pull so the fabric is flat, tightening the outer hoop. Prepare your needle with two strands of embroidery thread. Start your first cross-stitch in the centre of the design and the middle of the fabric; you will need to reposition it within the hoop to work on different areas. Follow the chart provided on the pattern pages – you can stitch in rows by colour or individually depending on your preference.

2 To start, bring the needle up through the back of the fabric, leaving a 2cm tail of thread behind, which you should secure with your subsequent stitches. Take the needle back down through the fabric to create a diagonal stitch, making sure that the thread tail at the back stays in place.

3 Keep doing this until you finish a row and then come back the other way, crossing the stitches diagonally to complete the row. Try to keep the top stitches running in the same direction if possible, as it creates a neater finish. Continue to stitch until you have finished a section in that colour. At the end of the cross-stitch, the needle should be at the back of the fabric. Pass the needle through the back of four or five stitches to secure the thread, then trim away any excess.

4 For the flower stems and the outlines, work a backstitch using a single strand of thread. Start by bringing the needle up through the fabric at the point of the first stitch, leaving a 2cm tail at the back, which you should secure with your subsequent stitches. Bring the needle back through the fabric at the point where the stitch will finish to create one backstitch. Next, bring the needle up at the point where the next stitch will finish and back down through the point where the first stitch starts. Continue until all of the backstitches in the chosen area are completed.

5 When you have finished the cross-stitch, remove the work from the hoop and wash with a delicate detergent in warm water. Do not rub or wring, but rather soak and gently agitate after a few minutes. Rinse well in cold water and allow to dry flat. To remove any wrinkles, place a towel on your ironing board, then press the piece right side down, using a hot steam setting. When fully pressed and dry, put the cross-stitch in your chosen picture frame.

Craft smart

To prevent the edges of the Aida fraying, work a zig-zag stitch all around on your sewing machine



FOLLOWING CROSS-STITCH CHARTS

Here's designer Emma Congdon's handy guide:

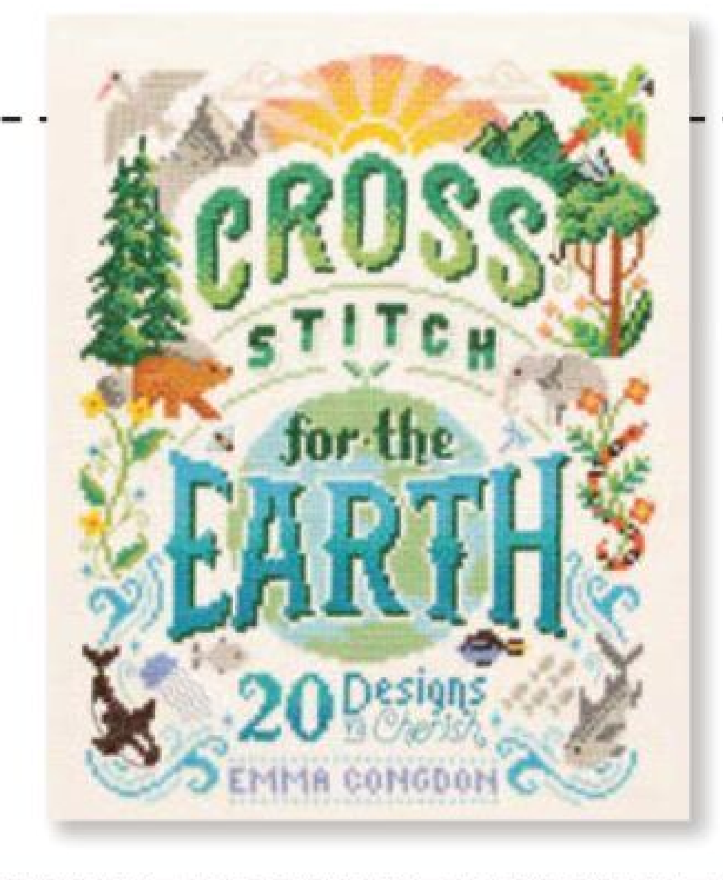
* Each coloured square on the chart represents a whole cross-stitch.
* The symbols refer to specific thread colours; check them against the key situated at the side of the chart.
* Single lines of colour represent backstitches, and are also shown in thread colours highlighted in the key.
* Use two strands for cross-stitch and one strand for backstitch.



STITCH IN TIME

DMC embroidery threads come in a huge array of shades and effects. Visit **dmc.com** for stockists.





GET THE book

There are more of Emma Congdon's beautiful designs celebrating nature in her book *Cross Stitch for the Earth* (David & Charles, £16.99), **davidandcharles.com**

TAKE 5...

SIT DOWN WITH A CUPPA AND ENJOY OUR PUZZLES!

Fit the numbers 1 to 9 into the grid so that no number occurs more than once in any row, column or marked 3 x 3 box.

			6		9			
	4	1				8	9	
			1		4			
6	2		7		5		8	1
	8		2		6		4	
8		3				4		5
	1	5				3	6	
				1				

WIN a Tattered Lace Die Set!





Find our bear somewhere in the magazine and email **jessica.elkin@aceville.co.uk** to be in with a chance of winning!

ACROSS

1 Prevent, stop (6)
4 Hearty laugh (6)
9 Touch the imagination of (7)
10 Furnish, provide (3,2)
11 Exposes (5)
12 Reflecting road stud (4-3)
13 Medieval stringed instruments (5)
15 Fast, speedy (5)
20 Gulps of air (7)
22 European beer (5)
24 Sense in the mouth (5)
25 Stirred emotionally (7)
26 Looked or dug deeply (into) (6)
27 Downgrade (6)

DOWN

1 Man's felt hat (6)
2 More experienced (5)
3 Publish once more (7)
5 Without tenants (5)
6 Blank page in a book (7)
7 Person who comes first in a race (6)
8 Tree that may have a copper variety (5)
14 Kitchen tool (7)
16 Admit willingly (7)
17 Waned (6)
18 ___ Wilde, Irish dramatist (5)
19 Domestic appliance (6)
21 Topic, subject (5)
23 Vigorous enthusiasm (5)

ACROSS 1 Thwart, **4** Guffaw, **9** Inspire, **10** Lay on, **11** Bares, **12** Cat's-eye, **13** Lutes, **15** Swift, **20** Breaths, **22** Lager, **24** Taste, **25** Aroused, **26** Delved, **27** Demote

DOWN 1 Trilby, **2** Wiser, **3** Reissue, **5** Unlet, **6** Flyleaf, **7** Winner, **8** Beech, **14** Utensil, **16** Welcome, **17** Abated, **18** Oscar, **19** Fridge, **21** Theme **23** Gusto.

9	6	2	8	5	1	7	3	4
7	3	8	6	4	9	1	5	2
5	4	1	3	2	7	8	9	6
3	5	9	1	8	4	6	2	7
6	2	4	7	3	5	9	8	1
1	8	7	2	9	6	5	4	3
8	7	3	9	6	2	4	1	5
2	1	5	4	7	8	3	6	9
4	9	6	5	1	3	2	7	8

Best of Craft AWARDS 2021

WIN THIS INCREDIBLE BUNDLE WORTH £220!

NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN!

Welcome to the launch of our exciting awards season – time to pick your favourites!



The UK's longest running craft awards are back and bigger than ever, giving you the opportunity to celebrate all the inspiring people that make the world of crafts such a wonderful community in which to work and play. The Best of Craft Awards is a true celebration of all that is creative and now is the chance to have your say.

We've made it super easy to nominate your favourites. Simply complete the form opposite or online at **craftawards.com** by 4th June, then you'll be entered into our incredible prize draw and automatically receive a bumper craft pack filled with goodies to download!



Catch up with the judges when they join us at the voting stage



DEBBIE SHORE
Much loved TV personality and author of over 20 amazing sewing books, this talented lady has a wealth of experience in the craft industry



STEPHANIE WEIGHTMAN
As a previous winner of our prestigious Designer of the Year award, Stephanie will be bringing her huge experience to our judging panel



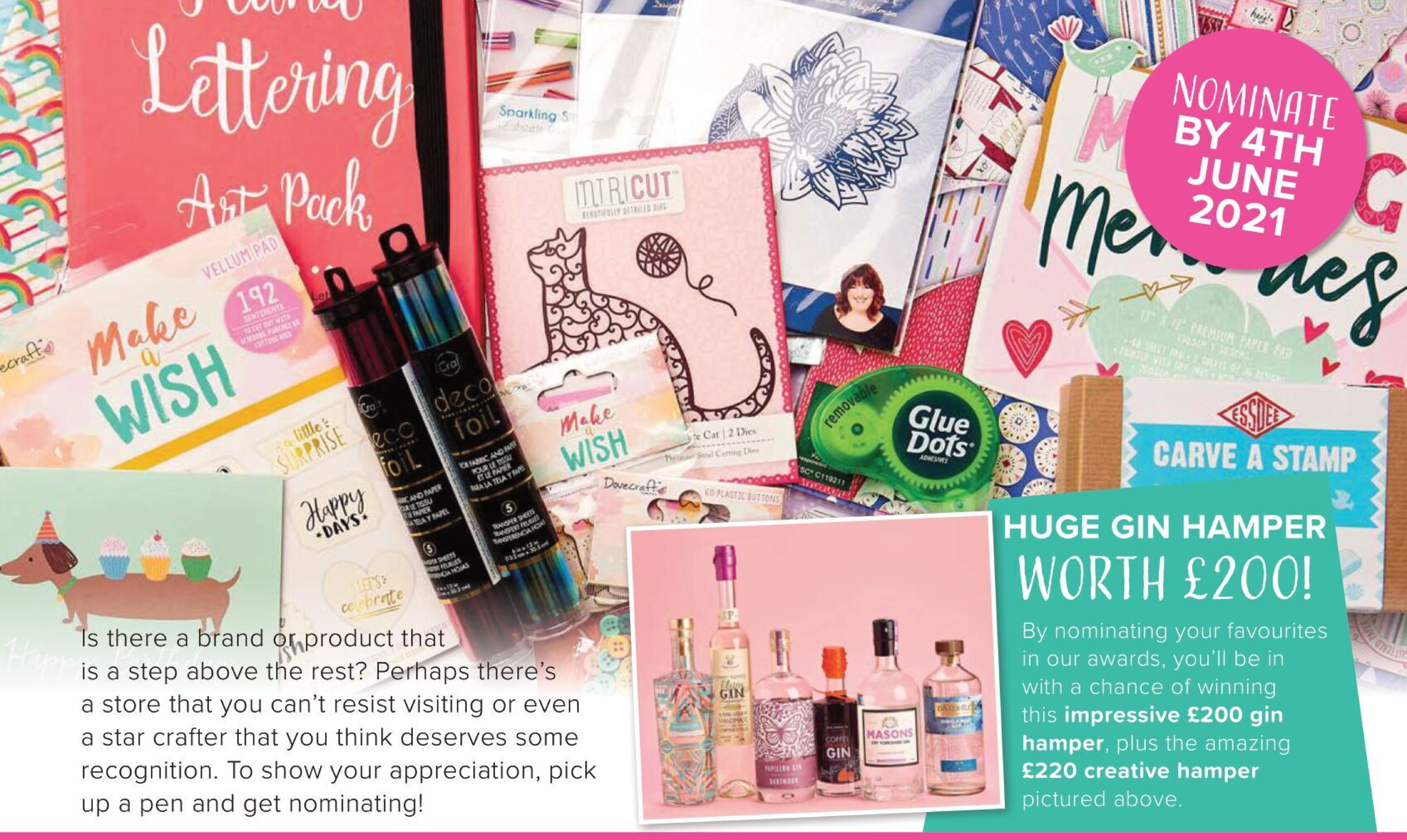
STUART HILLARD
One of the most recognisable men in the soft-craft industry, Stuart is well known for his best-selling sewing books and stunning fabric collections



SOPHIE PRESCOTT-CREES
TV presenter and creative influencer Sophie Prescott-Crees specialises in all things craft, upcycling and home décor



As a little thank you, you will automatically receive an exclusive digital bonus pack filled with brilliant papers, printables and projects!



Is there a brand or product that is a step above the rest? Perhaps there's a store that you can't resist visiting or even a star crafter that you think deserves some recognition. To show your appreciation, pick up a pen and get nominating!

HUGE GIN HAMPER WORTH £200!

By nominating your favourites in our awards, you'll be in with a chance of winning this **impressive £200 gin hamper**, plus the amazing **£220 creative hamper** pictured above.

Don't forget, you can also nominate online at **craftawards.com**

SHOPPING HEROES

MOST LOVED CRAFTS TV SHOPPING CHANNEL
The TV shopping channel that you're forever tuning in to

....

MOST LOVED UK CRAFTS CHAIN STORE
Your favourite high street retailer

....

BEST BRAND FOR CRAFTS
The ultimate craft brand you go to time and time again

....

BEST RATED CUSTOMER SERVICE
The brand that never fails to offer high-quality customer care

....

BEST SEWING MACHINE BRAND
Your pick of the best sewing machine money can buy

....

STELLAR PRODUCTS

FAVOURITE DIE-CUTTING RANGE
Your top choice for all things die-cutting

....

ULTIMATE GADGET/MACHINE
The crafty gizmo you simply can't live without

....

MOST LOVED STAMPING RANGE
Whose selection of stamps is simply the best?

....

MOST LOVED SCRAPBOOK COLLECTION
Tell us which brand you rely upon for papercrafting supplies

....

MADE TO INSPIRE

MALE CRAFT PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR
The man of the moment in crafts according to you!

....

FEMALE CRAFT PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR
Who is your leading lady in crafts?

....

DESIGNER OF THE YEAR
The person who inspires you the most

....

BEST WORKSHOP/ONLINE CLASS
Your creative space of choice to master a new skill

....

ULTIMATE CRAFT HOLIDAY
Where you like to craft and relax

....

MOST INSPIRING BLOG
The website you always turn to for crafty inspiration

....

BEST EVENT/SHOW
Which event is your all-time favourite?

....

....

INDEPENDENT RETAILERS OF THE YEAR

SCOTLAND

....

NORTH OF ENGLAND

....

WALES

....

IRELAND

....

MIDLANDS

....

SOUTH WEST OF ENGLAND

....

SOUTH EAST OF ENGLAND

....

YOUR DETAILS

Title .... Initial ....

Surname ....

Address ....

....

Postcode .... Country ....

Tel Number ....

Email ....

Signature .... Date ....

Send your completed form to: Best of Craft Awards, 21-23 Phoenix Court, Hawkins Road, Colchester, Essex, CO2 8JY

CAN WE STAY IN TOUCH?

YES, PLEASE ❑ NO, THANK YOU ❑
At Aceville we don't do spam. We want to keep in touch, but only if you want to hear from us. So we can let you know about what's going on, including our great offers and special deals please agree to receiving emails from us by ticking the box above. We promise we won't share your information with anyone else and you can manage what we send you at any time by following the link to our preference centre at the bottom of any of our emails.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS
This competition is open to all UK residents aged 18 or over, excluding employees or agents of the associated companies and their families. One entry per person (duplicates will be void).The prizes detailed in each competition cannot be exchanged for goods, or towards the purchase of goods at any retail outlet and are subject to availability. Prizes cannot be exchanged for cash, or replaced if lost or damaged. Automated entries are disqualified. Illegible entries and those that do not abide by these terms and conditions will be disqualified. The decision of the judge is final and no correspondence will be entered into. No responsibility held for entries lost. delayed or damaged in the post. Proof of posting is not proof of delivery. Winners will be notified within 28 days of the closing date. A list of winners will be available in writing on request from Marketing Department, 21/23 Phoenix Court, Hawkins Road, Colchester, Essex, CO2 8JY. By entering you agree to Aceville Publications contacting you regarding the Best of Craft Awards. The promoter will use entrants' personal details in accordance with the Aceville Privacy Policy. This is a limited offer and may be withdrawn at any time and subject to change. **CLOSING DATE 4th June 2021**

ON TEST

Macramé Kits

After having a serious resurgence, macramé is here to stay. Here's our top kit picks if you wanted to give your interiors an upgrade...



Cool Coasters

Elevate your drinks with this gorgeous coaster kit. Designed to be easy and relaxing, this kit comes with everything you need including access to a 'knot-along' video tutorial with the creator, so you can make them together! Choose between making two, four or six coasters and from a range of colours so you can customise them to suit your home décor. From £18, **studiodawnshop.etsy.com**



Wall Update

This beginner-friendly kit will allow you to create a beautiful woolly garland to hang in your home. You'll be able to craft five wolly circles, with 100% merino yarn, wooden rings and strong cotton warp to hang your garland. This could easily be made in an evening for a fun interior update that won't break the bank. £14.99, **johnlewis.com**



Soft Furnishings

Add a touch of boho to any room with this cushion kit, perfect for someone who has learnt the macramé basics and is on the hunt for their next challenge. This kit comes complete with three bundles of 3mm macramé rope in a choice of six colours, 18 wooden beads, instructions and a manual. The only thing you need is a 40cm cushion insert and you'll boost your macramé skill in no time. £39.99, **woolcouturecompany.com**



Plant Love

Made as eco-friendly as possible, this plant hanger kit includes all the materials required to make a beautiful hanger, but also comes with a seed pack of your choice from a huge range of flowers, indoor plants and herbs, plus a ceramic pot to plant it in. The easy-to-follow instructions, macramé cord and packaging are all made from recycled materials so you can treat yourself to a sustainable craft session. £23.99, **notonthehighstreet.com/seednsow**

ON TEST

Writing Essentials

Pen endless letters to loved ones with these must-buys...



Paisley Brights

For a little bit of luxury, we've turned to this customisable paisley print set from Papier. Make it completely your own by adding your name, initials, address or even something fun! So grab a pen and get writing kind letters to those that you miss – or why not treat a fellow stationery addict, it's a lovely gift idea! £24.99, **papier.com**



Pens Down

Smooth writing is essential for any letter. This gorgeous green fountain pen ticks all the right boxes, with a stainless steel nib that has a medium hardness and the ability to be used with any conventional ink cartridge. It's also a compact size, meaning it's very comfortable to write with and will seriously up your letter writing game. £15.13, **mightypapershop.etsy.com**

Just a Note

A few words can really make someone's day, and these marble notecards will do just the trick. With five different muted designs to choose from, and your choice of card and envelope, you can really make these notecards bespoke to you. They also come beautifully wrapped so you can keep them pristine too. £20, **jeevesco.co.uk**



Easy Organisation

Writing all these lovely letters means you need a place to store all those addresses! This stunning address book is an instant style piece, made from recycled leather and your choice of Liberty Tana Lawn fabric – you can even customise it with your initials stitched onto the front! £30, **undercoveruk.etsy.com**

Dolly DONKEY

SEW CORINNE BRADD'S VIBRANT CHARACTER FOR A GIFT A YOUNGSTER WILL TREASURE FOREVER



Known for being dependable and hardworking, donkeys are an understated creature of the animal kingdom. This loveable lady would make an adorable companion for any recipient and can easily be transformed into a gorgeous gift for a baby with just a few minor tweaks. Dolly is a nice compact size, but you may like to scale the templates down to make a mini donkey instead.

Craft Tip...

If you don't have an air-erasable pen, draw or print the templates onto freezer paper on the dull side, and gently iron onto the felt shiny side down. Simply cut out the pattern and peel off the paper to stitch together.



YOU'LL NEED...

Fabric: printed cotton
Coordinating thread
Toy filling
Six navy 15mm buttons
Grey yarn
Size Approx. 30cm

Let's get started...

DONKEY TOY

1 Download and print the templates provided from **makeandsewtoys.com**. Add a 5mm seam allowance around each piece. Use the templates to cut a head, nose and body, then another of each piece with the template reversed. Cut two ears from fabric using the template and another two with it reversed, then cut two ear pieces from wadding.

2 Use the leg template to snip eight legs, then pair up the pieces right sides together and sew around, leaving a 3cm gap along the bottom edge. Turn the legs right sides out, stuff fairly firmly, fold in the raw edges, then slip stitch closed.

3 Pair up the straight edge of one nose piece to the end of one head, right sides together, and stitch. Repeat for the other pieces and press the seam. Match up the bottom edge of the head pieces with the top of the body pieces and sew together. Place the two head and body halves right sides together and sew, leaving a 5cm gap along the belly. Clip the curves, turn right side out and stuff. Turn in the raw edges of the gap and slip stitch closed.

4 Pair up the ears right sides together and place a piece of wadding underneath each pair. Sew through the layers, leaving the straight edge unsewn. Clip the curves and turn right side out. Fold in the raw edges, pinch the base of the ear in half, and slip stitch closed. Oversew the ears to either side of the head, with the curved edge at the bottom. Pin a pair of navy buttons to the face for eyes and stitch in place.

5 Pin the legs to the body of the donkey and stitch in place securely with button joints, using doubled thread. Cut six 30cm lengths of grey yarn, fold them in half and stitch the fold to the rear of the donkey. Plait the tail to a 6cm length, bind the end with yarn, and trim the ends to 4cm.



Upcoming experts include Melanie McNeice, creator of soft toy brand Melly & me and designer Cheryl Owen

What's New Online at crafts-beautiful.com

Need an extra dose of inspiration? We've got you covered

FANCY GIVING SOMETHING NEW A TRY?

Well, we've got a floral home set to stitch that will revamp your décor, fancy folded cards to try and lots of ready to make papercraft treats. And, guess what? They're all ready to download now!





Over on the Crafts Beautiful blog our designers share their inspiration for our fabulous projects every issue



STAMPING MASTER

Learn how to stamp accurately onto your die-cut shapes with less waste and more success with Corinne Bradd's super handy tutorial. With lots of expert tips and tricks, you'll be an absolute pro in no time. **youtube.com/TheCraftsChannel**

How to DIECUT & STAMP



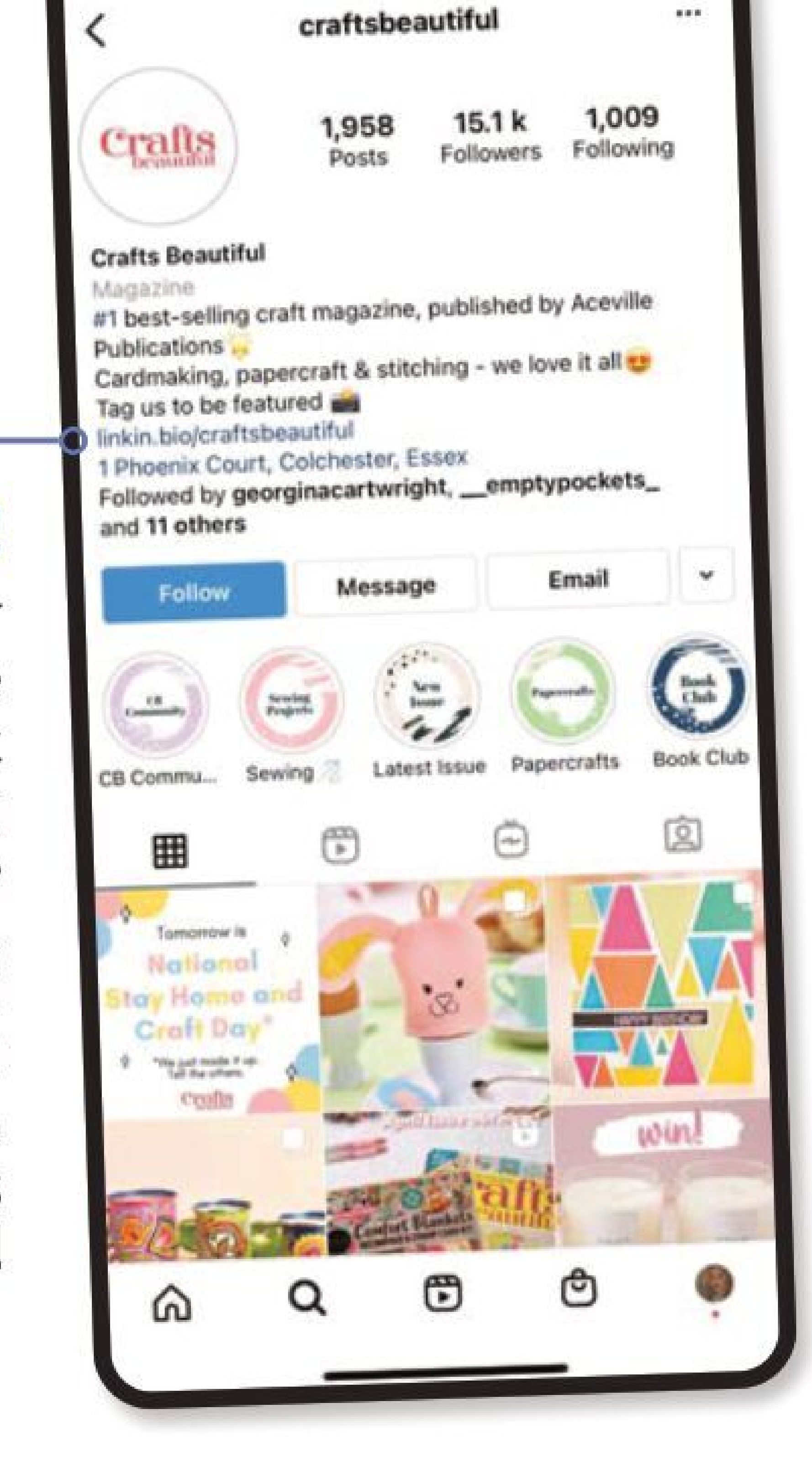
PIN OF THE MONTH

Still looking for stamping inspiration? This simple, yet stunning, floral card uses the Favorite Flowers clear stamps from Simon Says to make this colourful greeting that would put a smile on any recipient's face. With endearing sentiments and gorgeous line-drawn flowers, this stamp set can be used in a variety of ways and will seriously ignite your creativity. Find it on our Pin of the Month board at **pinterest.com/craftsbeautiful**



Best Wishes With Love

Download your free Vintage Florals papers and 37 bonus digi stamps and use them with your Create and Craft card making kit!



FOLLOW US!

Over on our Instagram, we've got 15.1k craft lovers enjoying our exclusive giveaways, downloads and more! Come and join the fun and find us **@craftsbeautiful**

MAY TEMPLATE TASTERS

Copy, resize or trace these patterns to make the projects that appear in the magazine. You can also visit

crafts-beautiful.com

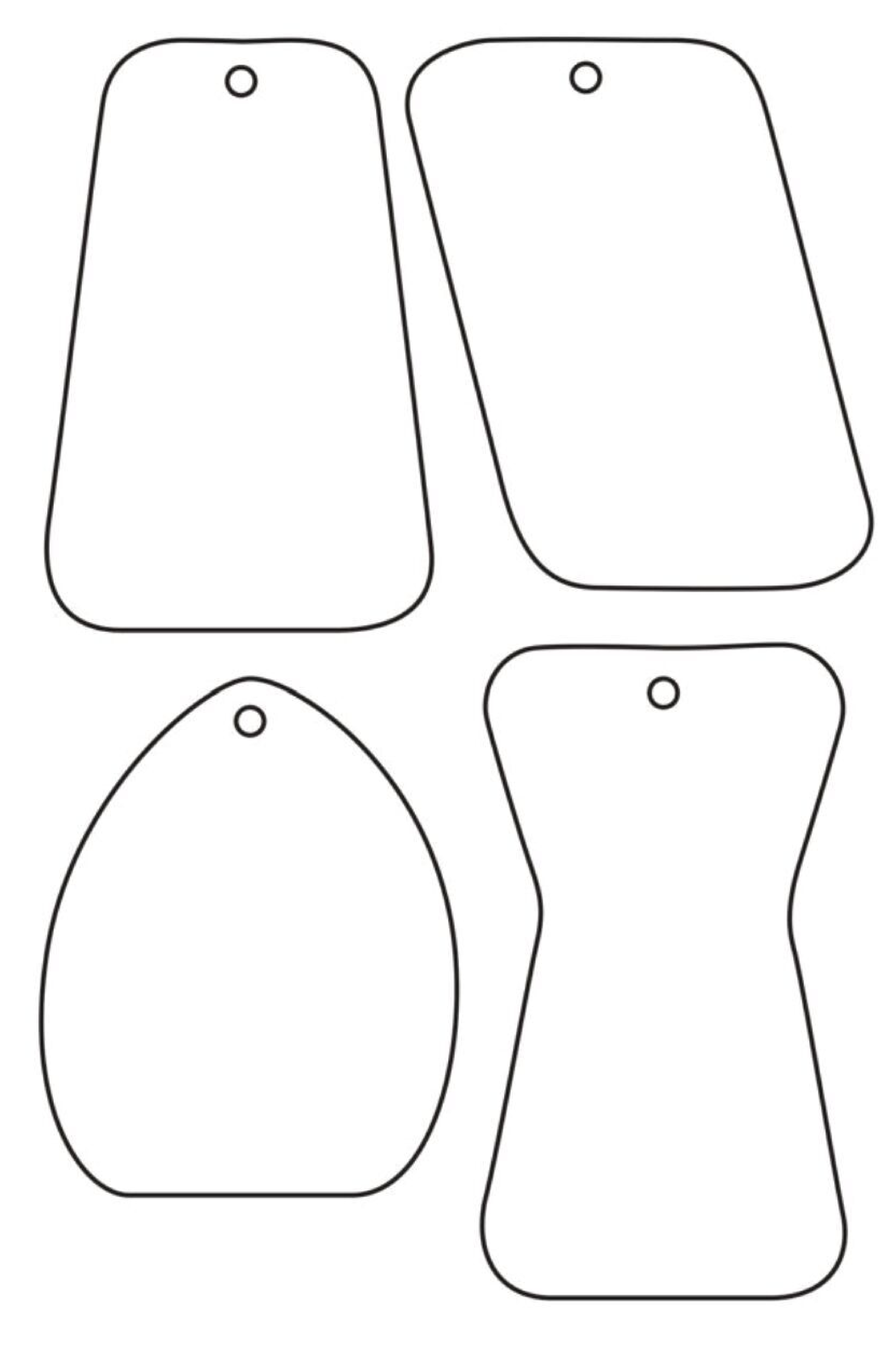
and download them for free!



Watercolour Effects

Craft this stylish set with colourful water-soluble inks

Designer: Corinne Bradd
Page 56 shown at 75%



Click & Craft

1 To download actual-size templates for this issue's makes, visit **crafts-beautiful.com**, then click on the tab to view our archive of craft templates.

2 Select the May issue's templates and click 'Download Template' on the new page. The pattern folder will automatically transfer onto your computer. Follow the instructions to print all or selected templates.

3 If you haven't already registered, you'll need to create a log-in for our website to allow you exclusive access to all of our free downloads and the masses of craft templates we have up for grabs.

Folded Orchid Set

Create beautiful greetings inspired by exotic flowers

Designer: Helen Fitzjohn
Page 40 shown at 60%

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

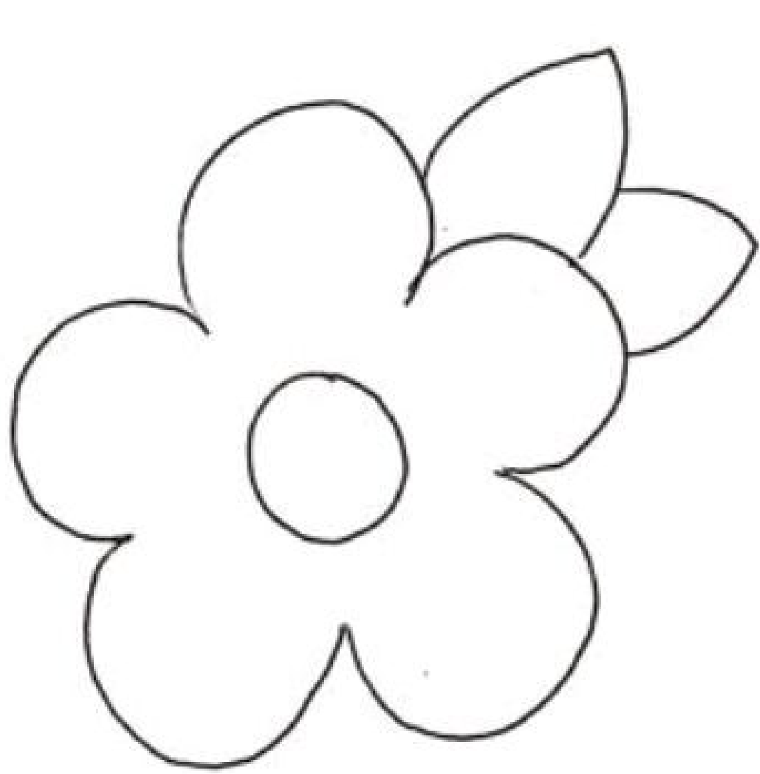
WITH LOVE

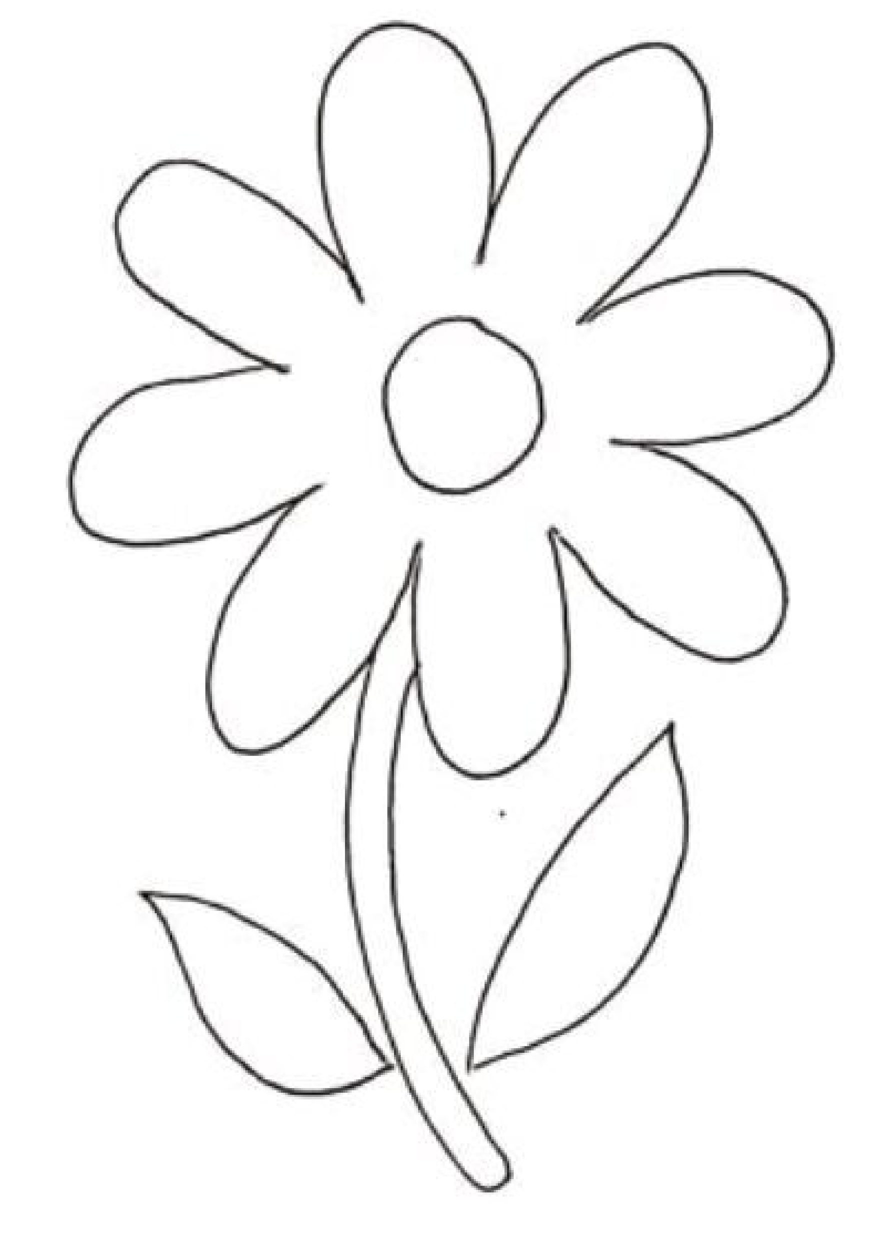


Try Floral Appliqué

Say it with flowers in this bright and cheery stitched project

Designer: Sophia Palmer
Page 76 shown at 50%









Cross-Stitch a Wall Hanging

Celebrate the bees in this colourful piece of textile art

Designer: Emma Congdon
Page 81 shown at 50%

Thread length estimate

No.	Colour Name	Colour	Stitch count	Length(m)
472	Bud green		248	0.1
164	Pistachio green		229	0.1
598	Lagoon turquoise		170	0.1
726	Mimosa yellow		313	0.2
680	Dark old gold		457	0.2
743	Medium yellow		196	0.1
809	Gentle blue		80	0.1
920	Ochre copper		1234	0.4
922	Terracotta		166	0.1
988	Forest green		220	0.1
989	Fennel green		411	0.2
3345	Dark Hunter Green		1883	0.6
3371	Ebony		56	0.1
3371	Ebony		110	0.1
3854	Spicey gold		251	0.1

Pardon the Weeds we're feeding the BEES

NEXT TIME IN...

Crafts beautiful

June 2021







- Love your **75-piece gift** worth £19.99!
- **21 incredible makes** with your kit
- **Brand new** techniques
- **Stamping** how-to
- **PLUS** Master box cards!





FREE* Felt Decorations Book, worth £8.99!

+50 Projects!



Follow our painting guide!

Get set for Father's Day

Crafts beautiful
May 2021

Editor
Jessica Elkin (01206) 505484
jessica.elkin@aceville.co.uk

Deputy Editor
Melissa Hyland
melissa@aceville.co.uk

Content Writer
Sorcha Hornett
sorcha@aceville.co.uk

Head of Editorial: Crafts
Lynn Martin

Managing Director
Helen Tudor

Advertising Director
Owen Cook (01206) 505939
owen.cook@aceville.co.uk

Deputy Head of Crafts
Rebecca Reynolds (01206) 508611
rebecca.reynolds@aceville.co.uk

Advertising Manager
Danielle Harris (01206) 505954
danielle.harris@aceville.co.uk

Art Director
Sarah Mayes

Designers
Clare Brasier
Hannah Kemp

Photography
cliqq.co.uk

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Ad Production
Adrian Pratt

Marketing Manager
Andrea Turner
andrea.turner@aceville.co.uk

Accounts
Anne-Marie Hartley (01206) 505902

Subscription Enquiries
0800 904 7000

Senior Subscriptions Executive
Zoe Charge

Customer Services
0800 904 7000
aceville@dctmedia.co.uk

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Giveaways GALORE!

To enter our giveaways, just choose the items you would like to win by ticking the corresponding boxes. Post your entry to arrive no later than 8th July 2021. Mark your envelope: **Sharon Kilbride, Crafts Beautiful May & June Giveaways, 1 Phoenix Court, Hawkins Road, Colchester, Essex, CO2 8JY**

☐ Craft Kits ☐ Stationery Set ☐ Gemini Pro
☐ Louvre Prints ☐ Luxury Papers

What is your favourite craft technique?

☐ Papercraft ☐ Sewing ☐ Calligraphy ☐ Watercolour

Title* Forename*

Surname*

Address*

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Email

* Entries will NOT be valid unless ALL asterisked information is provided.

How much do you spend on crafting per month?

☐ £20 and under
☐ £21 - £50
☐ £50 - £100+

Feel free to photocopy this form if you don't want to damage the magazine.

Only one entry per person is accepted.

Visit **crafts-beautiful.com** to enter our giveaways online!

TERMS AND CONDITIONS This competition is open to all UK residents aged 18 or over, excluding employees or agents of the associated companies and their families. One entry per person (duplicates will be void). The prizes detailed in each competition cannot be exchanged for goods, or towards the purchase of goods at any retail outlet and are subject to availability. Prizes cannot be exchanged for cash, or replaced if lost or damaged. Prizes are subject to availability and we reserve the right to withdraw any prize at any time. Automated entries are disqualified. Illegible entries and those that do not abide by these terms and conditions will be disqualified. The decision of the judge is final and no correspondence will be entered into. No responsibility held for entries lost, delayed or damaged in the post, proof of posting is not proof of delivery.

All entries become the property of Aceville Publications Ltd & sister companies and you agree to be contacted by completing this form. Winners will be notified within 28 days of the closing date, a list of winners will be available in writing on request from Marketing Department, 21/23 Phoenix Court, Hawkins Road, Colchester, Essex, CO2 8JY.

CLOSING DATE 8th July 2021

Entrants can also enter by completing the entry form on crafts-beautiful.com. Entries received after the closing date of the promotion will not be considered. The Promoter will use entrants' personal details in accordance with the Aceville Privacy Policy. This is a limited offer and may be withdrawn at any time and subject to change.

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Put your completed form in an envelope and send it to: **Find a Crafty Friend, Crafts Beautiful, 1 Phoenix Court, Hawkins Road, Colchester, Essex, CO2 8JY** or submit details via email: **cbfriends@aceville.co.uk**

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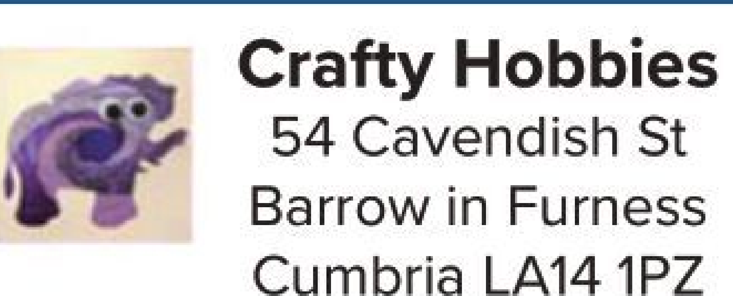
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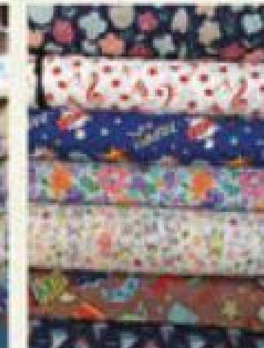
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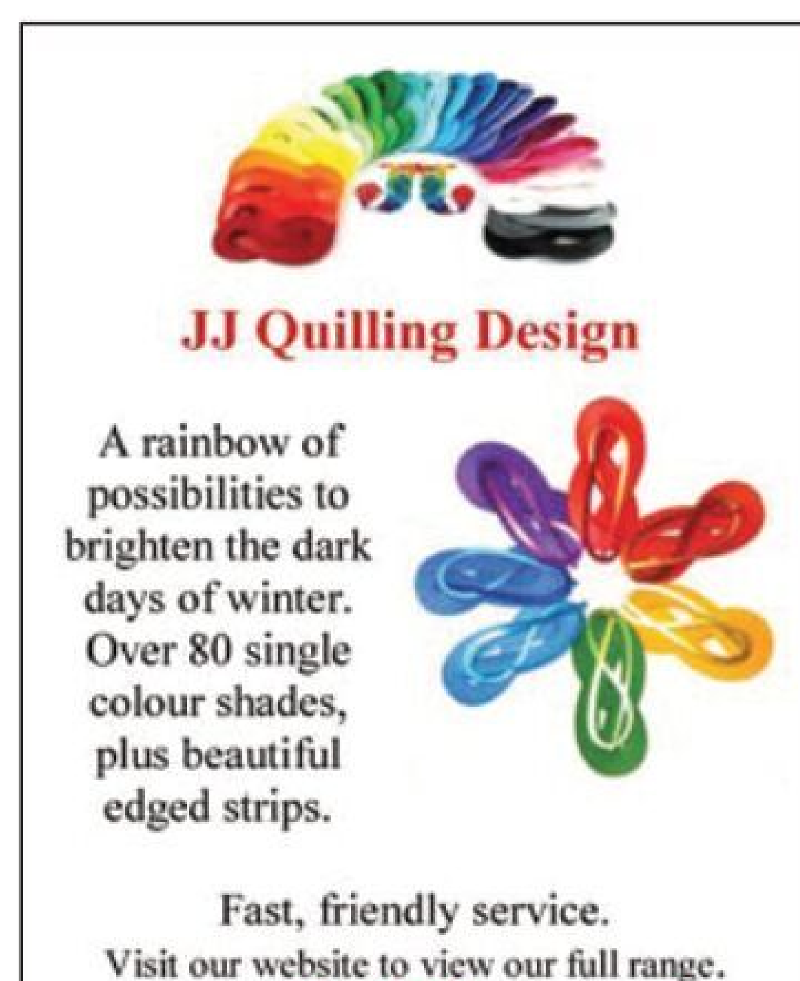


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Carolyn Dunster

We catch up with botanical stylist Carolyn about her love of flowers and her stunning new book *Cut & Dry*

I can't remember a time in my life when I wasn't fascinated by flowers. Even as a child I picked posies for my bedroom and gathered wildflowers for pressing but it wasn't until much later that I decided to pursue my passion professionally. I wanted to do something hands-on and creative, so after ten years in magazine publishing I trained as a florist and subsequently as a garden designer to forge a second career.

I started a floristry business from my kitchen table and my children's earliest skills were based around tying the perfect bow. Since then, one thing has led to another, and as I have had more time I have taken on bigger projects. But ultimately though, everything relates back to my love of flowers.

I think dried flowers have become hugely popular recently as ways of living sustainably take on more importance. They don't have to be disposable imported commodities and dried flowers bridge the gap between seasons when locally-grown blooms are unavailable. They can also be reused and recycled for events and installations. And they are wonderful to look at – there is an unexplored beauty in natural decay that makes a great visual impact.

I spent two years experimenting with flowers that I grew in my garden or foraged for in the wild, trying to find the varieties that would give the best results when dried. I then pitched the idea for a book and it coincided with dried flowers starting to appear in large installations. I think they have captured the imagination of a new generation of flower lovers and a modern guide to working with dried flowers is very timely.

Don't miss Carolyn's dried flower bouquet project in our next issue!


There are many ways to preserve flowers, from drying to pressing

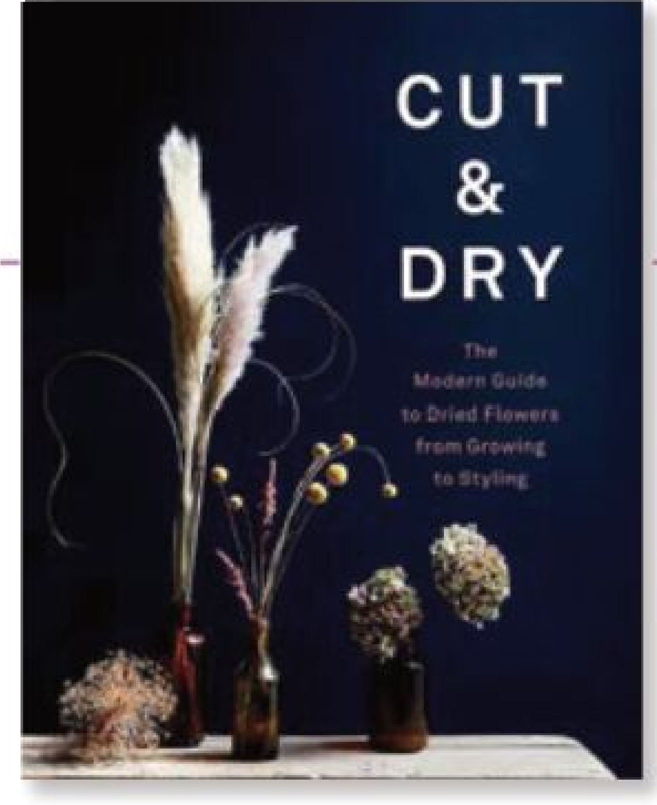
> "Even on a bad day it is possible to find something in the garden that symbolises hope"

I like using dried flowers in a very simple way. I have been inspired by the Japanese philosophy of wabi sabi which is all about appreciating the perfectly imperfect. Working with dried flowers as opposed to fresh lets you off the hook in terms of only using ingredients that are at their peak. A recycled vessel or coloured glass bottle filled with dried grasses harvested in late summer is the perfect way to start.

Like a lot of us, gardening has pretty much kept me sane during lockdown. It is all about looking forward and planning ahead so it has helped to prevent me from getting stuck. Even on a bad day it is possible to find something in the garden that symbolises hope. I actually decided to redesign my plot in order to grow more of the varieties of flower that dry the most successfully so that I had a project to keep me busy.

I'm waiting to see how things will open up over the course of this year but so far I have some workshops and talks pencilled in. Whatever happens though, my garden will keep me busy and the cycle of planting, nurturing and harvesting will be on repeat.

Dried flower arrangements are huge on Instagram



GET THE book

Discover everything you need to know about dried arrangements in *Cut & Dry: The Modern Guide to Dried Flowers from Growing to Styling* by Carolyn Dunster (Laurence King, £17.99), **laurenceking.com**